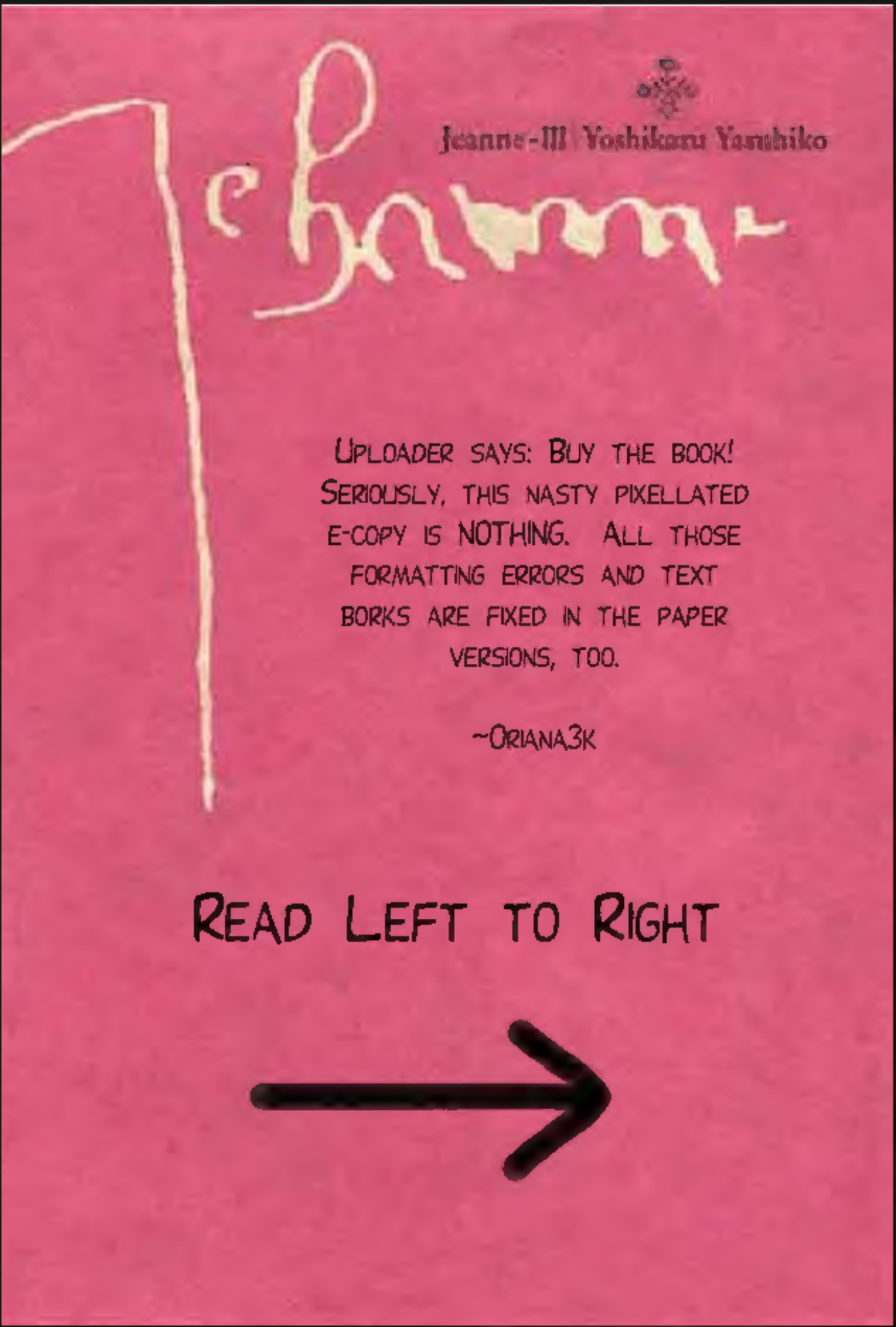
Joan - III

Yoshikazu Yasuhiko

Très che[illegible] et bien-aimés, Jeanne la Pucelle [illegible]ui désirerait bien vous voir, a reçu vot[illegible] lettre dans laquelle vous lui disiez q[illegible]e vous craigniez d'etre assiégés. [illegible]ous ne le serez pas, si je puis rencontrer [illegible]s ennemis d'ici quelque temps. Si je [illegible]nne les recontre pas, ils ne viendron[illegible]pas vous assiéger, si vous fermez vos [illegible]ortes. Car je pourrai venir rapidement vers vous; et si les ennemis s'y trouvaient, je les ferais chausser leurs éperons avec tant de hâte qu'ils ne sauraient par ou les prendre, et, dans le cas où ils auraient mis le siège devant la ville, je lemis le leur ferais lever rapidement. Je ne vous écris pas autre chose pour le moment; soyez toujours bons et fideles. Je prie Dieu qu'il vous ait en sa garde. Ecrit à Sully, le 16 mars.

SUGGESTED 15UP



UPLOADER SAYS: BUY THE BOOK! SERIOUSLY, THIS NASTY PIXELLATED E-COPY IS NOTHING. ALL THOSE FORMATTING ERRORS AND TEXT BORKS ARE FIXED IN THE PAPER VERSIONS, TOO.

~ORIANA3K

READ LEFT TO RIGHT

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Joan Book III

Summary of Previous Volumes

Chapter 1
AGNES

Chapter 2
ALENCON

Chapter 3
MARGUERITE

Chapter 4
FEU DE LA PUCELLE
Joan's Fire

Epilogue

Special Notes

Joan -III

Yoshikazu Yasuhiko

SUMMARY OF THE PREVIOUS VOLUMES.

EMIL IS THE DAUGHTER OF THE KIND AND LOVING DUKE OF LORRAINE. HIS REAL NAME IS EMILY. BAUDRICOURT, HIS STEPFATHER, BROUGHT HIM UP AS A BOY FOR REASONS OF SECURITY.

EMIL IS SOMEHOW LINKED TO THE "MIRACULOUS GIRL," JOAN OF ARC. EMIL HAD A VISION OF JOAN IN THE CHATEAU THAT SHE LEFT FOR FRANCE. IN FACT, JOAN WAS SENT TO THE DAUPHIN CHARLES BY NONE OTHER THAN EMIL'S STEPFATHER BAUDRICOURT.

IT HAD BEEN NINE YEARS SINCE JOAN WAS BURNED AT THE STAKE IN ROUEN, AND THE HUNDRED YEARS WAR WAS IN ITS FINAL STAGE. HOWEVER, FRANCE WAS STILL IN A STATE OF CHAOS. THE LORDS DISTRUSTED THE TIMID KING, CHARLES, AND THE DAUPHIN LOUIS TOOK ADVANTAGE OF THIS SITUATION TO START A REBELLION. THE KING'S FACTION WAS FORCED TO FIGHT A BATTLE ON TWO FRONTS AGAINST A FOREIGN ENEMY, THE ENGLISH, AND THE DAUPHIN'S FACTION, THE PRAGUERIE.

EMIL LEFT ON A MISSION FOR HIS STEPFATHER WITH THE ENCOURAGEMENT OF CONSTABLE RICHEMONT OF THE KING'S FACTION. ON HIS WAY, HE SAW JOAN'S IMAGE AGAIN AT THE HOUSE IN DOLERMY WHERE SHE WAS BORN. JOAN SAID TO EMIL, "PLEASE PROTECT THE KING, AS I DID, NO MATTER WHAT HAPPENS."

EMIL MET CHARLES IN TOURS, A CITY SUPPORTIVE OF THE KING. CHARLES'S FEAR OF LOUIS AND HIS POOR TROOPS WORRIED EMIL GREATLY. UPON LEARNING THAT THE ARMY WAS IN DESPARATE NEED OF MONEY, EMIL VOLUNTEERED TO VISIT GILLES DE RAIS, A RICH ARISTOCRAT.

GILLES, WHO ONCE WAS A GLORIOUS COMRADE OF JOAN, HAD COMPLETELY CHANGED. SEEING JOAN'S HORRIBLE DEATH AT THE STAKE HAD DRIVEN HIM INSANE. HE GAVE HIMSELF TO HIS INDULGENCES: LIQUOR, FINE FOOD, AND TWISTED SEXUAL PRACTICES. THE BASEMENT OF HIS CHATEAU WAS DYED WITH THE BLOOD OF INNOCENT BOYS.

GILLES WAS CONFUSED BY EMIL'S SUDDEN APPEARANCE AND HIS RESEMBLANCE TO JOAN. HOWEVER, PRELATI, A WARLOCK IN CONTROL OF GILLES'S MIND, DEMANDED EMIL AS A LIVING SACRIFICE. EMIL, CAUGHT IN PRELATI'S TRAP, WAS FORCED INTO A CORNER OF A BARN. SUDDENLY, JOAN'S NOBLE APPARITION APPEARED IN FRONT OF EMIL'S ATTACKERS. PRELATI RETREATED IMMEDIATELY AND GILLES CAME BACK TO HIMSELF.

GILLES INDULGED IN REMINISCENCES OF THE OLD DAYS FOR EMIL'S BENEFIT. THE SHORT BUT GLORIOUS TIME THAT HE SPENT WITH JOAN WERE TOO BEAUTIFUL TO COMPARE WITH THE VULGARITY OF HIS CURRENT LIFE. WITH EMPTY WISHES OF STARTING HIS LIFE OVER FROM INFANCY, GILLES LISTENED TO THE RAIN OUTSIDE THE BARN SIGHED, AND SPOKE TO EMIL OF "RAINY BETHLEHEM..."

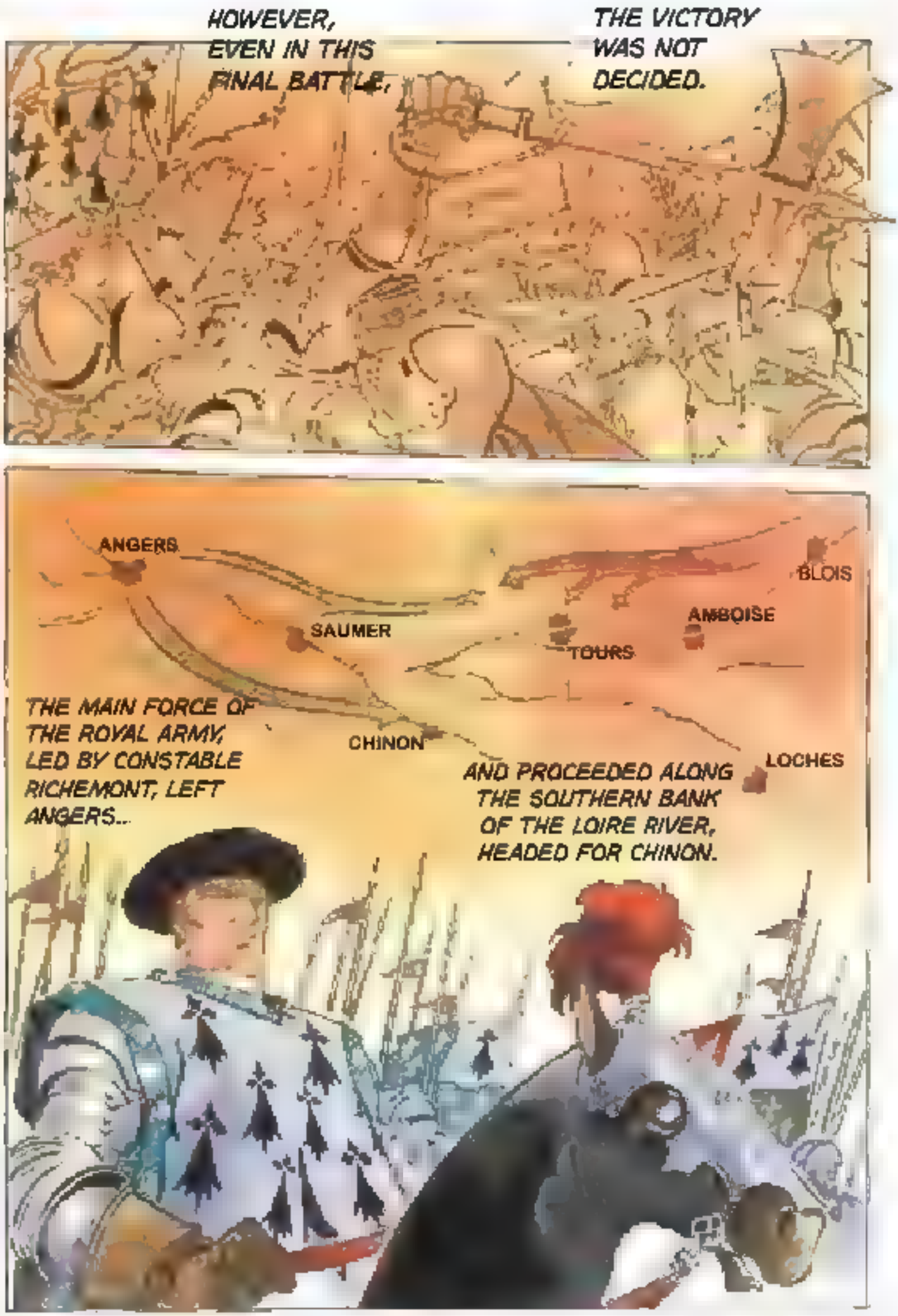
THE KING'S ARMY WAS FINALLY REINFORCED BY A DONATION FROM GILLES. CONSTABLE RICHEMONT RECOGNIZED EMIL'S WORK AND ASSIGNED EMIL TO FIGHT UNDER HIS COMMAND.

AS THE KING'S TROOPS PREPARE FOR A COUNTERATTACK, THE FINAL BATTLE WITH DAUPHIN LOUIS IS ABOUT TO BEGIN..

Chapter 1

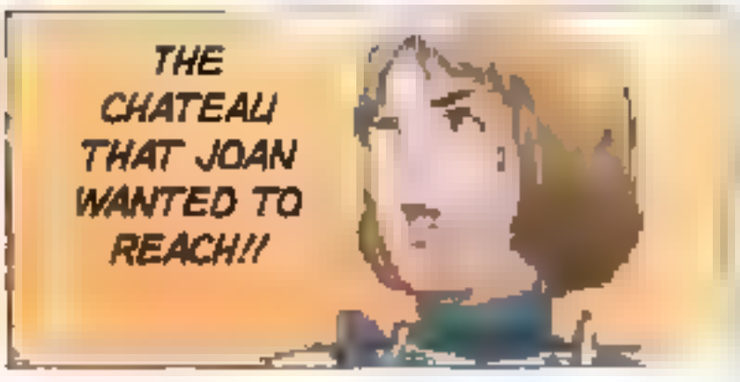
AGNES

THE BATTLE BETWEEN KING CHARLES AND DAUPHIN LOUIS
BEGAN NEAR TOURS.


HOWEVER, EVEN IN THIS FINAL BATTLE,
THE VICTORY WAS NOT DECIDED.
ANGERS
SAUMER
CHINON
TOURS
AMBOISE
BLOIS
LOCHES
THE MAIN FORCE OF THE ROYAL ARMY, LED BY CONSTABLE RICHEMONT, LEFT ANGERS...
AND PROCEEDED ALONG THE SOUTHERN BANK OF THE LOIRE RIVER, HEADED FOR CHINON.

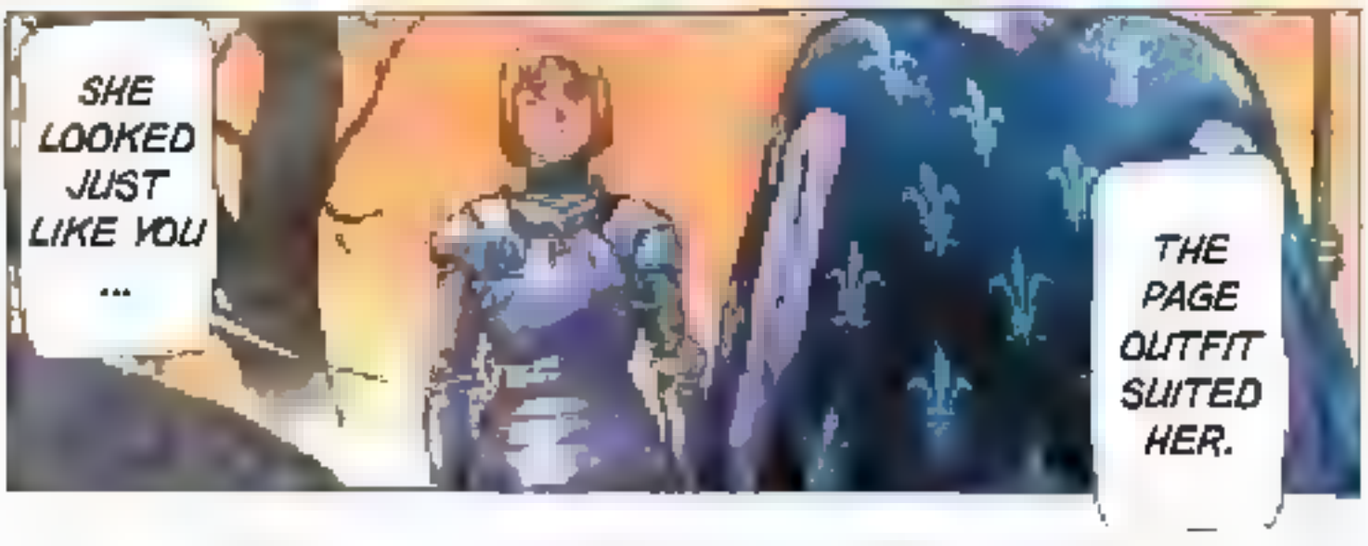
CHINON

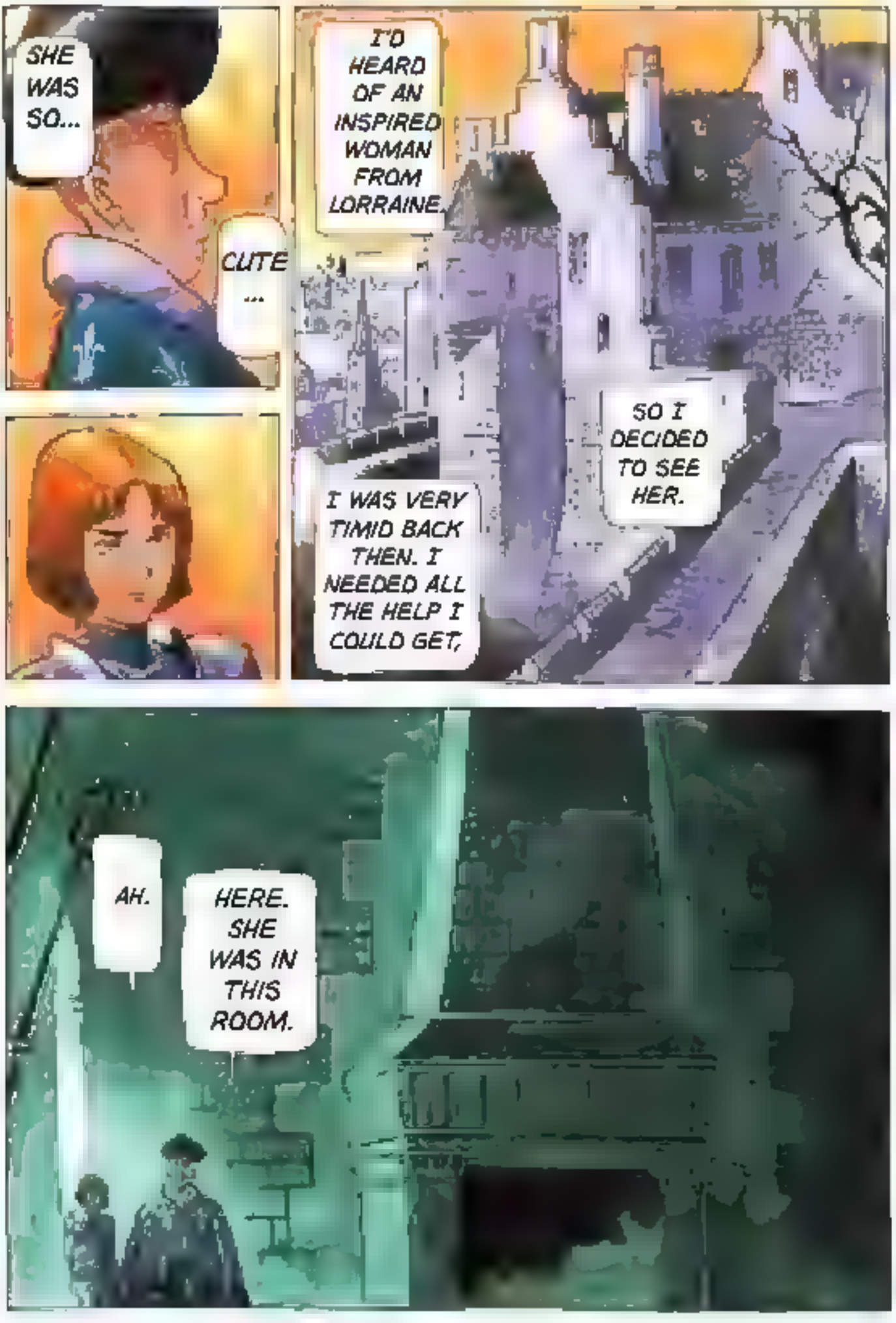
CHINON! AT LAST!
THIS IS THE CHATEAU OF CHINON!


THE CHATEAU THAT JOAN WANTED TO REACH!!

SHE CAME HERE IN A DARK COLORED JACKET WITH A HOOD ...
AND LOOKED LIKE A FARMER.

HER HAIR WAS SHORT.
HER SPEECH WAS VIVA-CIOUS.
SHE LOOKED COM-PLETELY LIKE A BOY.


SHE LOOKED JUST LIKE YOU ...
THE PAGE OUTFIT SUITED HER.

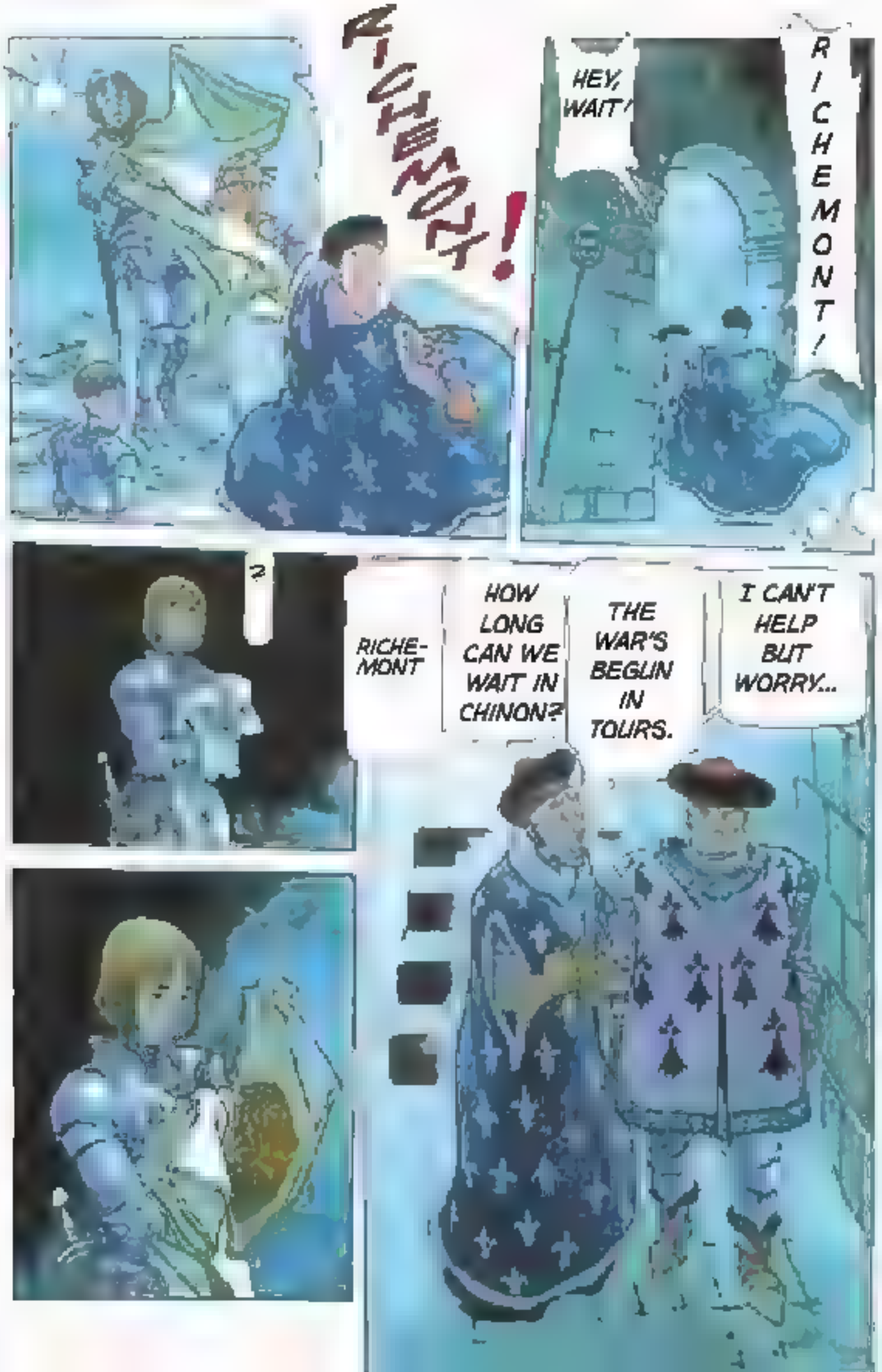

SHE WAS SO...
CUTE ...
I'D HEARD OF AN INSPIRED WOMAN FROM LORRAINE.
SO I DECIDED TO SEE HER.
I WAS VERY TIMID BACK THEN. I NEEDED ALL THE HELP I COULD GET,
AH.
HERE. SHE WAS IN THIS ROOM.

AMONG A CROWD OF PEOPLE
LOOKING JUST AT ME
JOAN
STARTED TO WALK TOWARD ME
THERE WERE SO MANY PEOPLE AROUND
DRESSED SO MUCH MORE NICELY THAN ME

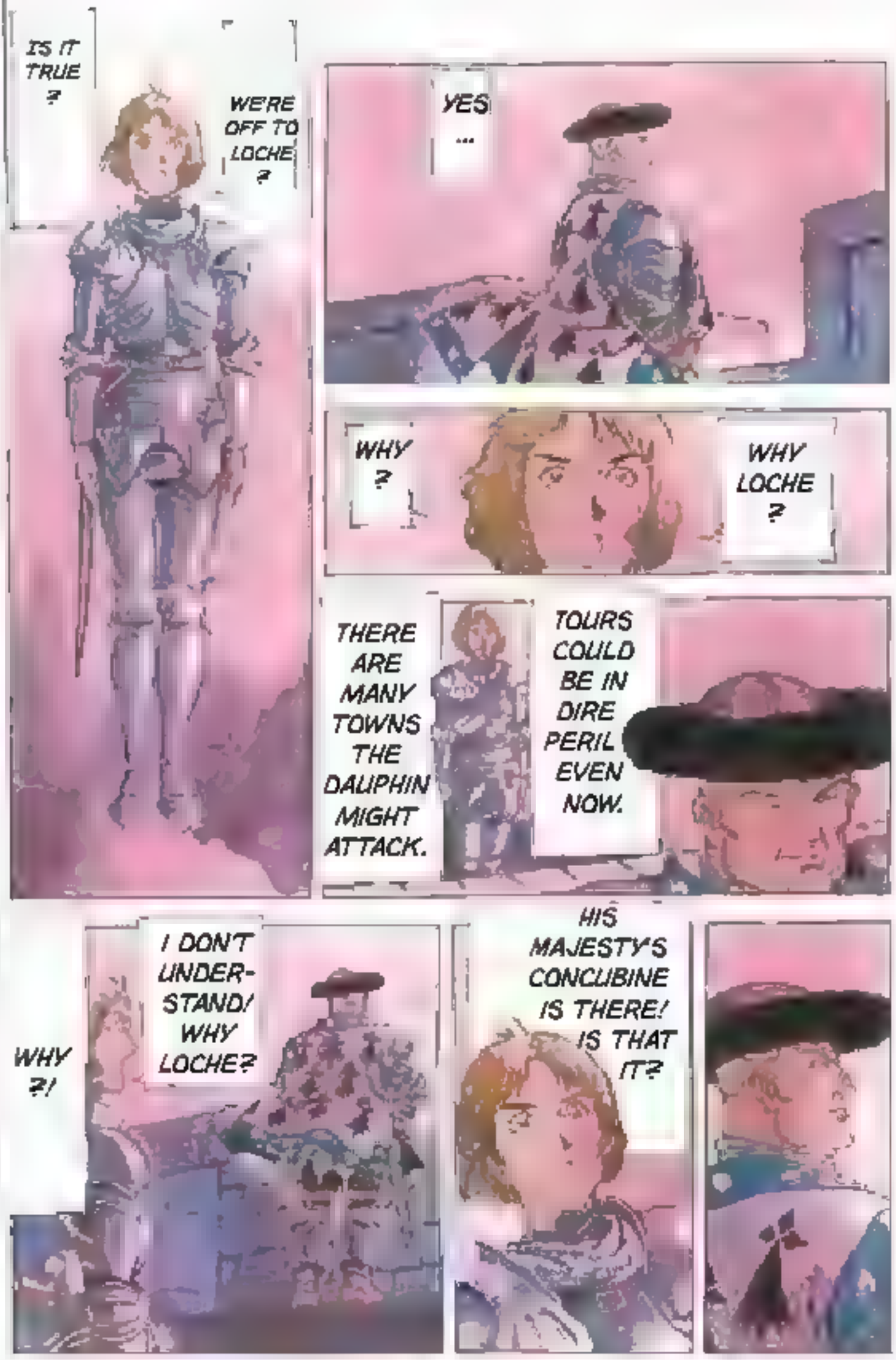
THAT SMALL FARM GIRL KNELT DOWN IN FRONT OF ME (ME, A COMPLETE STRANGER TO HER!), TOOK MY HAND AND SAID, "GOD SENT ME HERE. YOU ARE THE TRUE SUCCESSOR OF FRANCE."

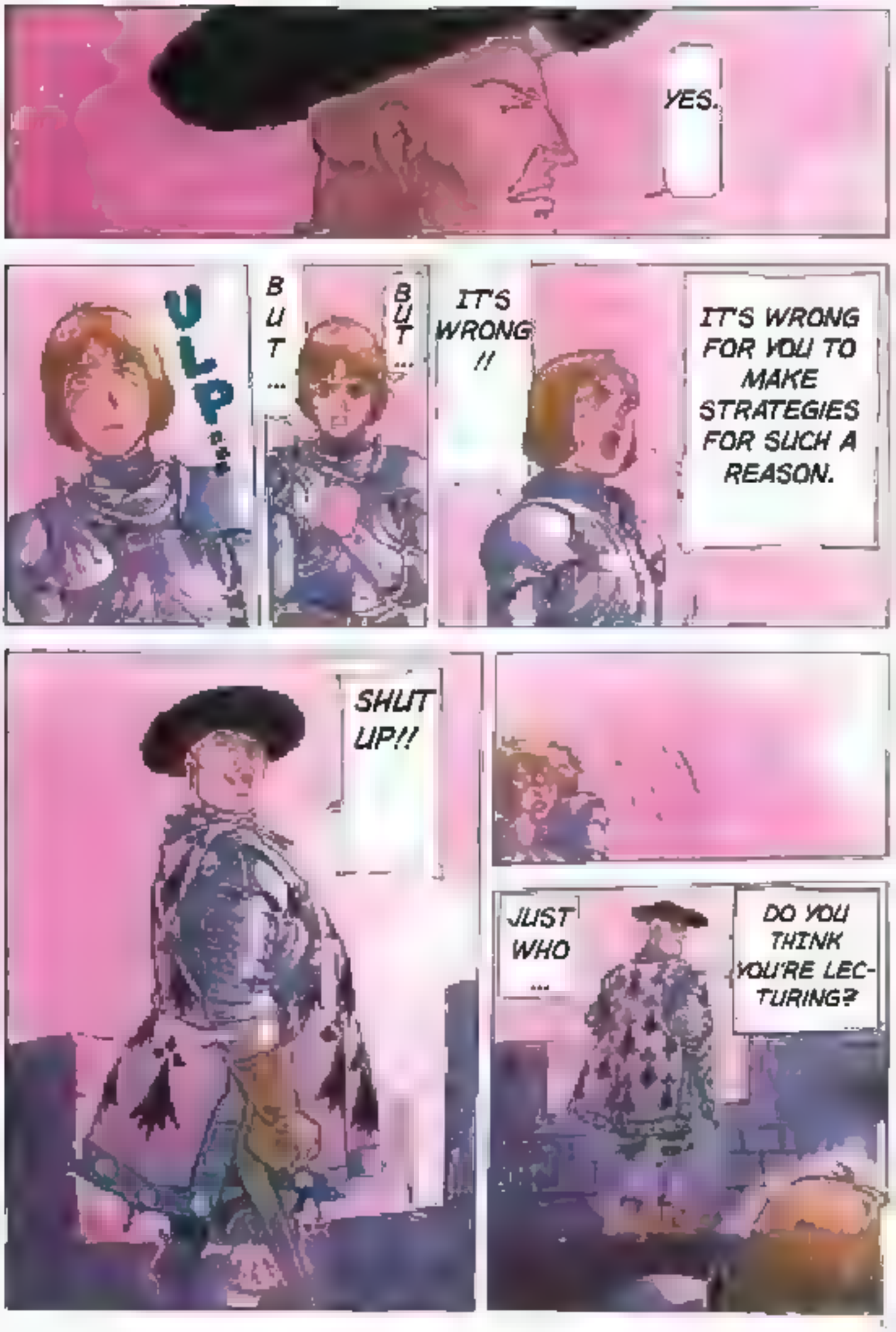
AT THE TIME I WAS NOT SURE ...
IF I WAS TRULY MY FATHER'S SON, OR A BASTARD AS MY MOTHER CLAIMED.
SHE ENDED MY AGONY BY TELLING ME THAT.
WHEN SHE SAID THAT ...
I FELT I HAD TO TRUST HER.
TO BELIEVE...
THAT GOD SENT HER TO ME...
MM
EMIL DE BALIORA COURT!
YES!

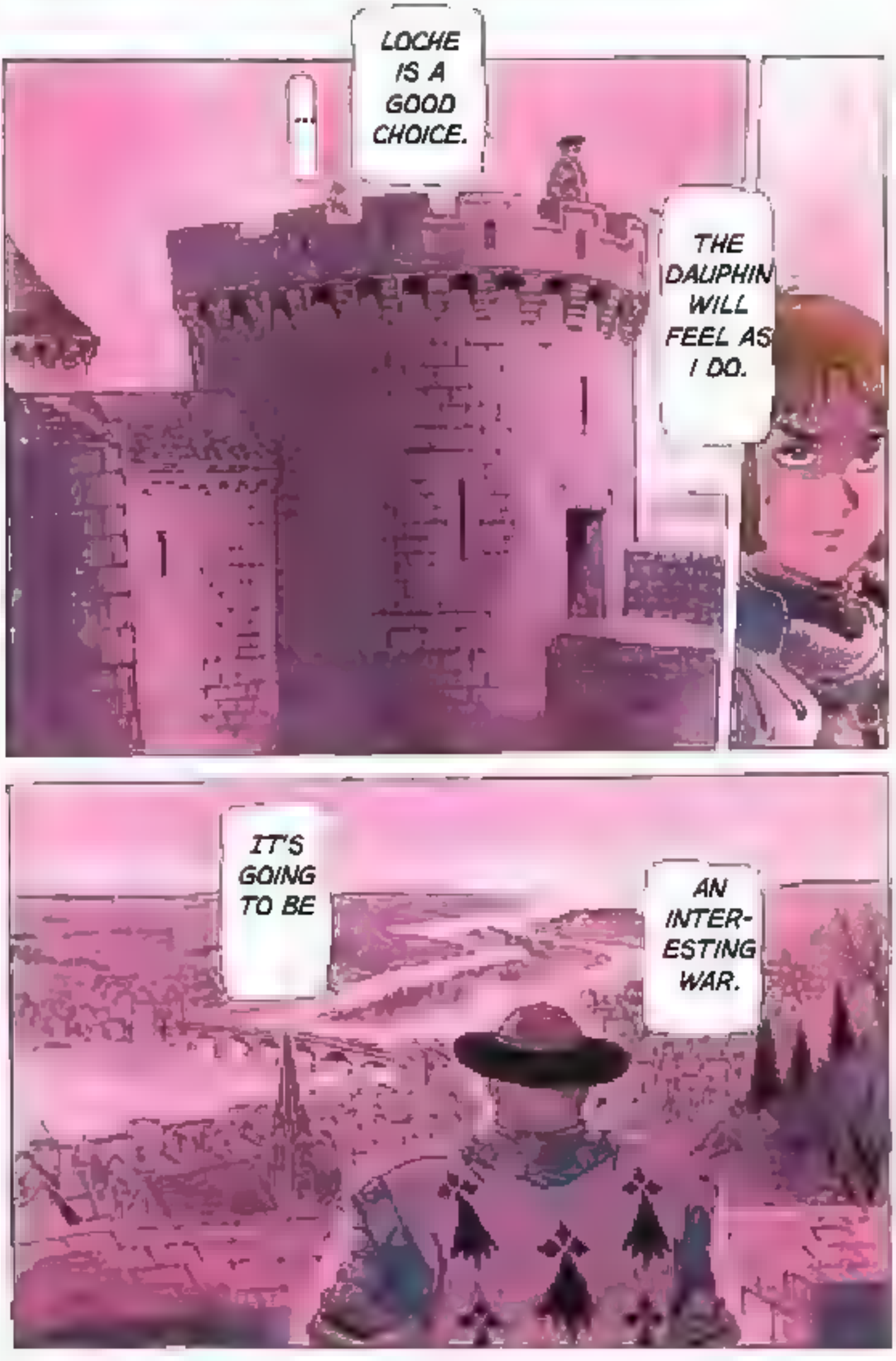
FWIP
TAKE THE FLAG AND USE IT FROM NOW ON!
IT'S THE SAME AS THE ONE I GAVE JOAN.
CROWN, SWORD AND LILY.
YOU'RE FROM LORR-AINE, LIKE HER
SERVE ME AS ONE OF THE ARC'S.
HER FLAG HAS MAGIC.
SEE?
MM?


RICHEMONT!
HEY, WAIT!
RICHEMONT!
RICHE-MONT
HOW LONG CAN WE WAIT IN CHINON?
THE WAR'S BEGUN IN TOURS.
I CAN'T HELP BUT WORRY...

LOUIS MUST HAVE KNOW OF OUR PLANS.
SO, I MUST ...
...GET TO LOCHE QUICKLY!
LOCHE?
I WORRY HE MIGHT GET THERE
WHILE I TARRY ...
IT'S FEARFUL TO THINK WHAT HE WOULD DO.
ALAS, POOR AGNES ...
AGNES
AGNES
OHH ...

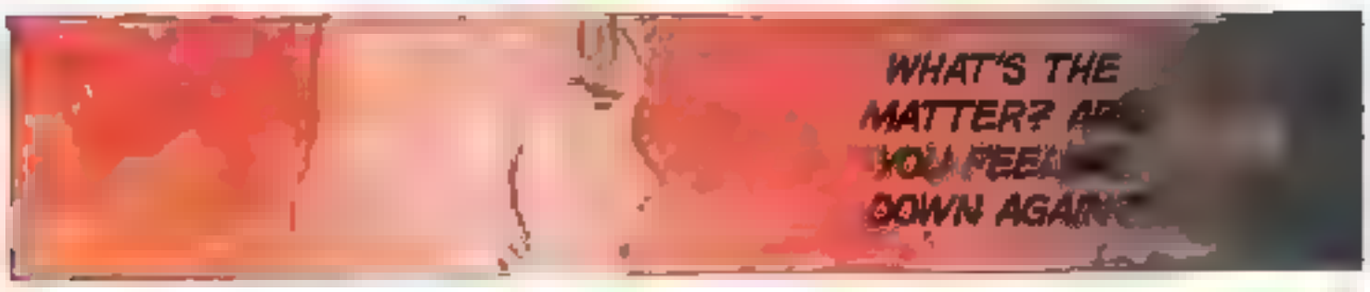

IS IT TRUE ?
WE'RE OFF TO LOCHE ?
YES ...
WHY ?
WHY LOCHE ?
THERE ARE MANY TOWNS THE DAUPHIN MIGHT ATTACK.
TOURS COULD BE IN DIRE PERIL EVEN NOW.
WHY ?!
I DON'T UNDER-STAND! WHY LOCHE?
HIS MAJESTY'S CONCUBINE IS THERE! IS THAT IT?


YES.
ULP...
BUT...
BUT...
IT'S WRONG //
IT'S WRONG FOR YOU TO MAKE STRATEGIES FOR SUCH A REASON.
SHUT UP!!
JUST WHO...
DO YOU THINK YOU'RE LECTURING?


LOCHE IS A GOOD CHOICE.
...
THE DAUPHIN WILL FEEL AS I DO.
IT'S GOING TO BE
AN INTER-ESTING WAR.

HUHHHH

EMIL,
EMIL


WHAT'S THE
MATTER? AR
YOU FEEL
DOWN AGAIN

YOU
ALWAYS
THINK TOO
MUCH.
COME ON.

JOAN.

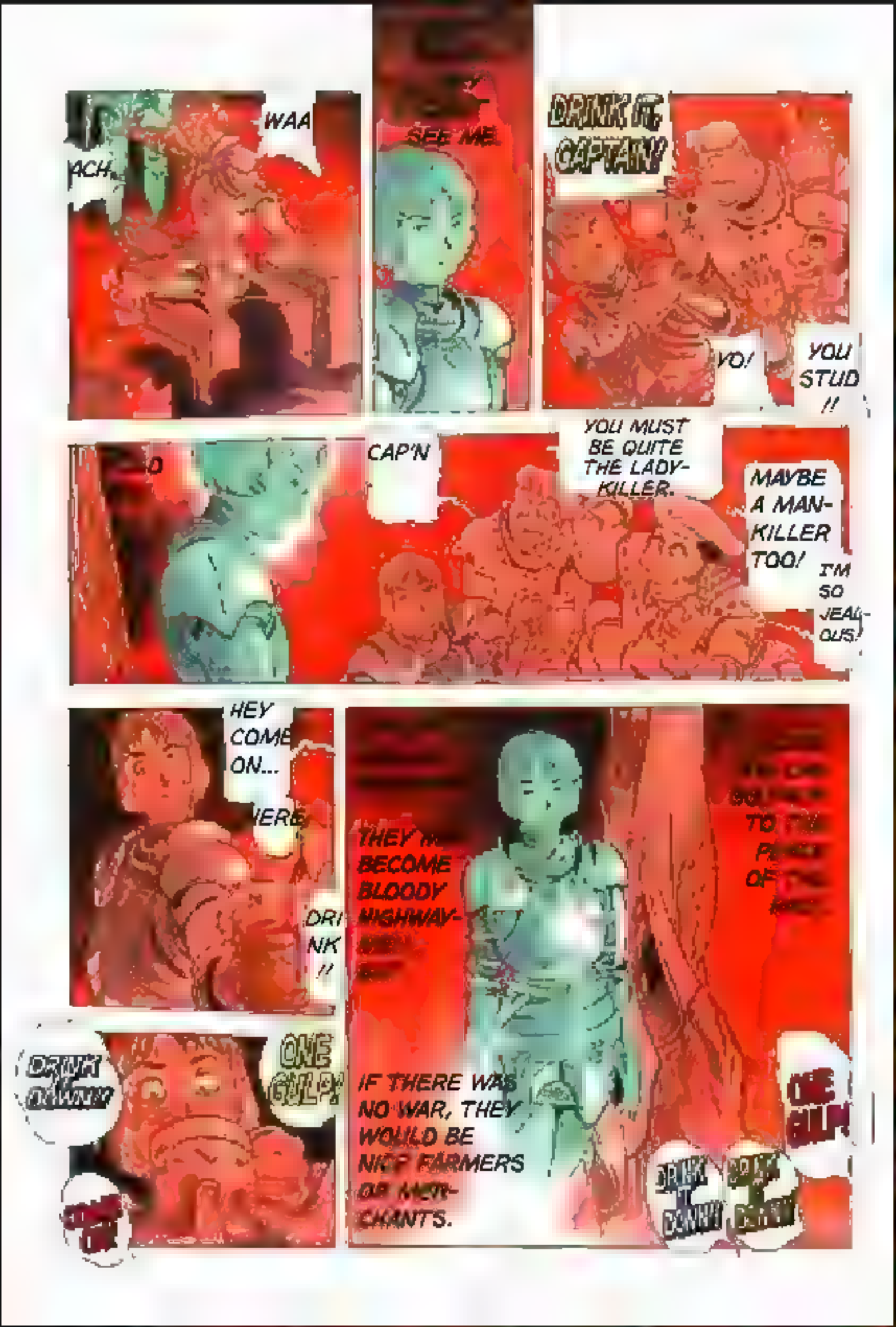
YOU'RE
THINKING TOO
MUCH, EMIL.
I WASN'T

I DID NOT THINK AT ALL.
BUT SOLEY FOLLOWED THE VOICE OF GOD.
VERY GOOD!
GAVE TO YOU

A GOOD FLAG
STRONGER THAN A THOUSAND SWORDS.
SCARES OUR FOES AND BOOSTS YOUR SOL-DIERS MORALE.
FIGHT FOR FRANCE.
THAT'S NOT TRUE!!
AGNES IS HIS MAJE-STY'S ONLY CONCERN.
IT'S DISGUSTING, NO MATTER, WHAT HIS STATUS IS.

FOR SOMETHING LIKE THAT ?
EMIL
THAT'S NOT THE POINT.
WHO YOU FIGHT FOR ISN'T IMPORTANT.
BUT ...
"TO FIGHT FOR FRANCE" ISN'T ENOUGH, EITHER.
IF WE JUST FIGHT ACCORDING TO GOD'S WILL, THEN...
THIS WAR WILL END SOON.
THE WAR
WILL END ?
YES! THE WAR THAT WE HAVE LONG SUFFERED WILL END
WHEN FRANCE WINS,
KING CHARLES WILL UNITE THE COUNTRY AND SEND THE ENGLISH BACK TO BRITAIN.

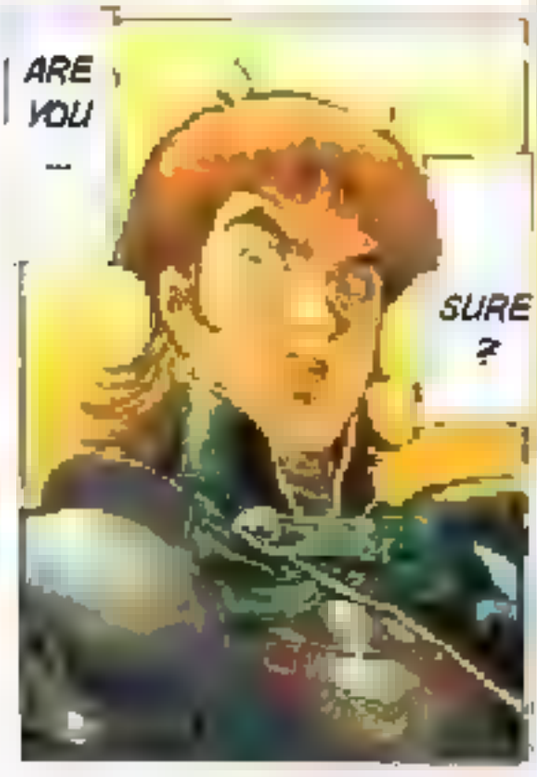
DON'T ASK ME WHY.
I DON'T KNOW WHY, EITHER.
BUT THAT'S WHAT GOD WANTS.
GOD WANTS THIS WAR TO END SOON...
BUT GOD COULD NOT LEAVE IT TO HUMAN GREED AND ENVY,
SO HE SENT ME TO DO THE JOB.
I WANTED TO SEE THE WAR END AND PEACE REIGN IN DOMREMY AGAIN.
BUT MY LIFE ENDED BEFORE THAT.
DON'T GET DIS-
HEY, CAPTAIN EMIL!
LET'S HAVE A DRINK.
TO CELE-BRATE OUR WIN!


WAA
YACH..
SEE ME
DRINK IT CAPTAIN
YO!
YOU STUD !!
CAP'N
YOU MUST BE QUITE THE LADY-KILLER.
MAYBE A MAN-KILLER TOO!
I'M SO JEAL-OUS!
HEY COME ON...
DRI NK !!
THEY BECOME BLOODY NIGHWAY-
IF THERE WAS NO WAR, THEY WOULD BE NICE FARMERS OR MER-CHANTS.
DRINK DRINK!
ONE GULP!
DRINK IT DOWN!
ONE GULP!

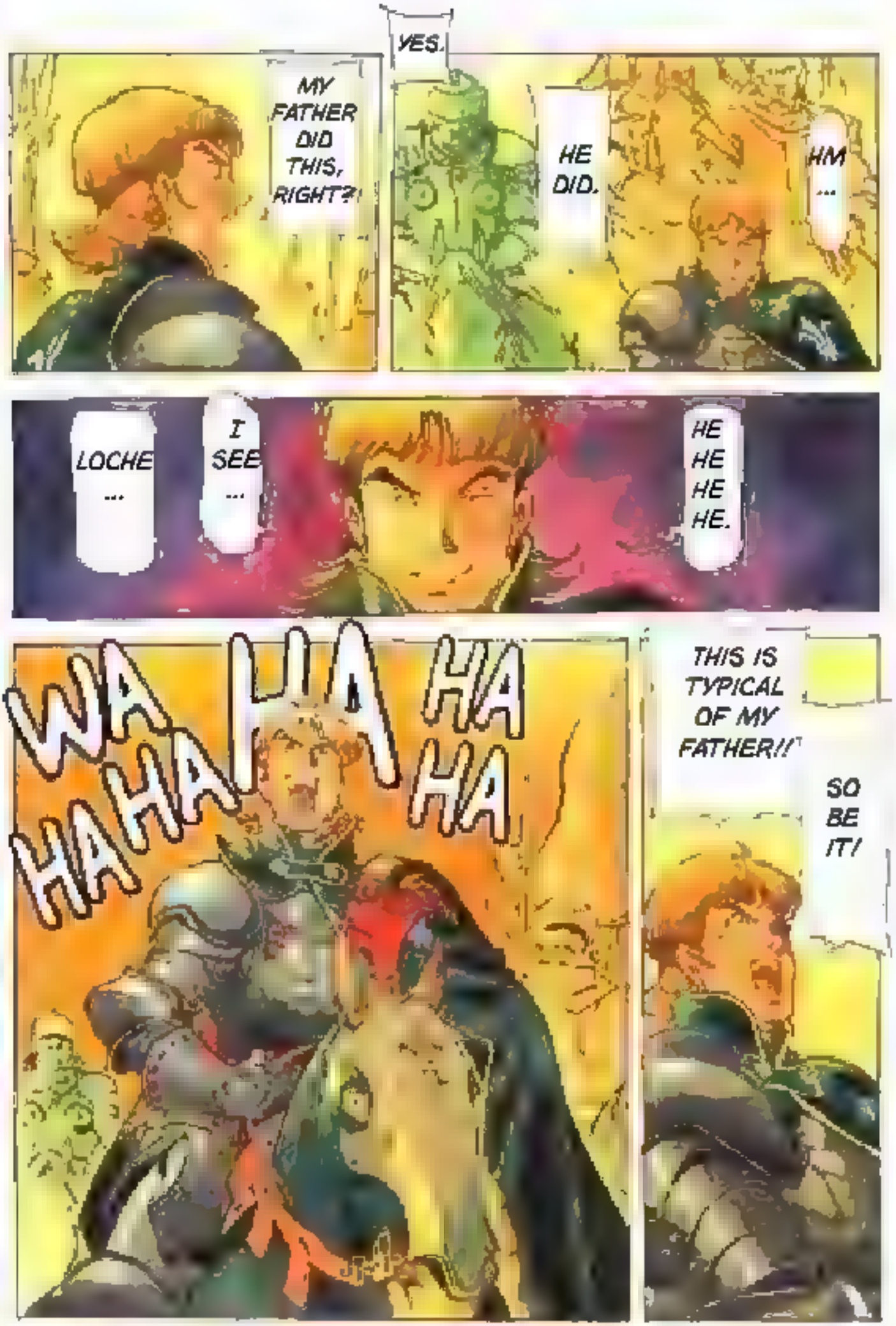
SOON...
JOAN!
?
JOAN !!
JOAN?
JOAN, WAIT! I STILL NEED..
...TO TALK TO YOU!!
JOAN !!

KMPH
KMPH
KMPH
KMPH
KMPH
KMPH
KMPH

WHAT ?
RICHE-MONT'S ARMY IS ON THE WAY TO LOCHE?


ARE YOU ...
SURE ?

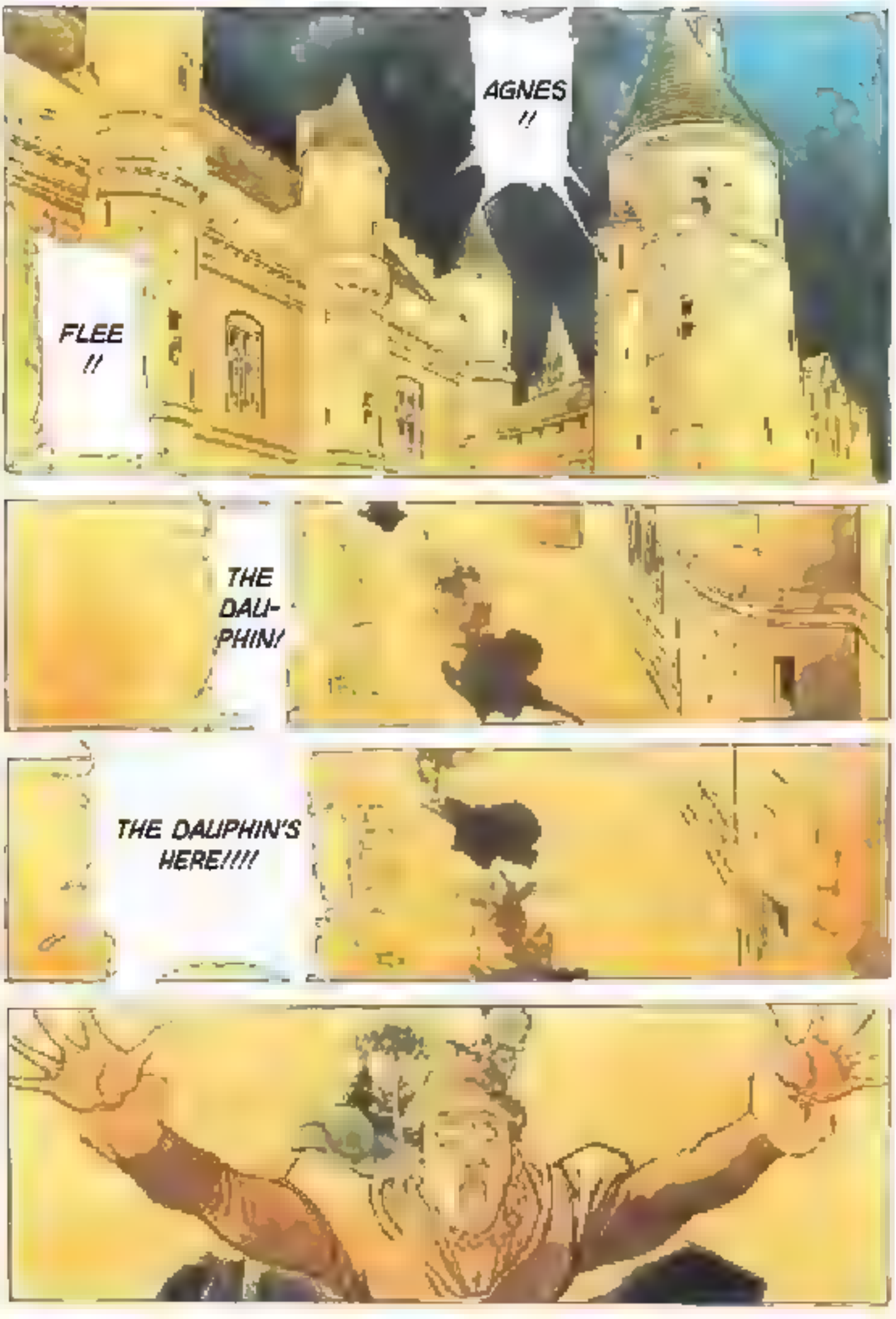
YES SIR!
THEY LEFT CHINON
AND ARE HEADING EAST.

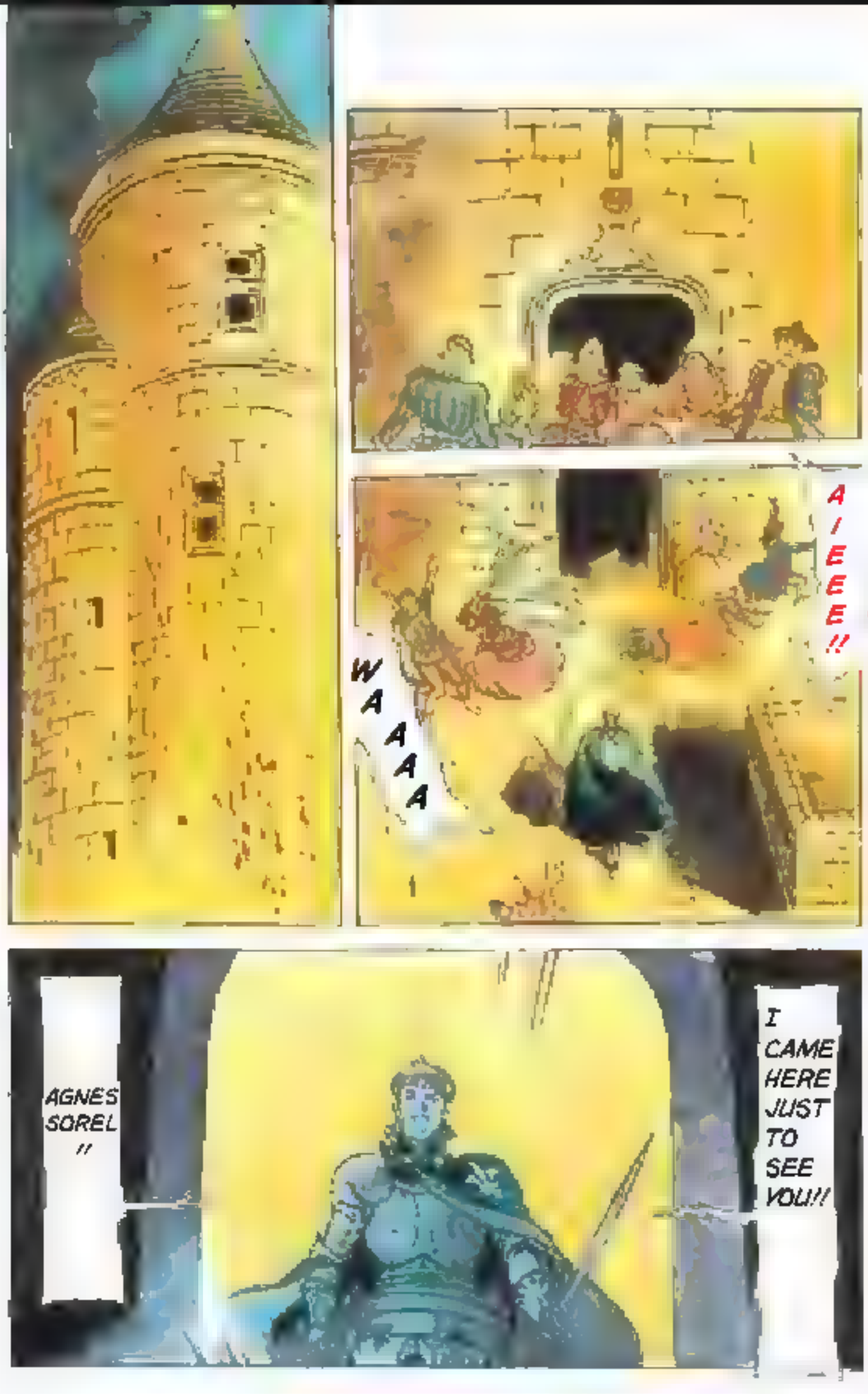

MY FATHER DID THIS, RIGHT?!
YES.
HE DID.
HM ...
LOCHE ...
I SEE ...
HE HE HE HE.
WA HA HA HA HA HA
THIS IS TYPICAL OF MY FATHER!!
SO BE IT!

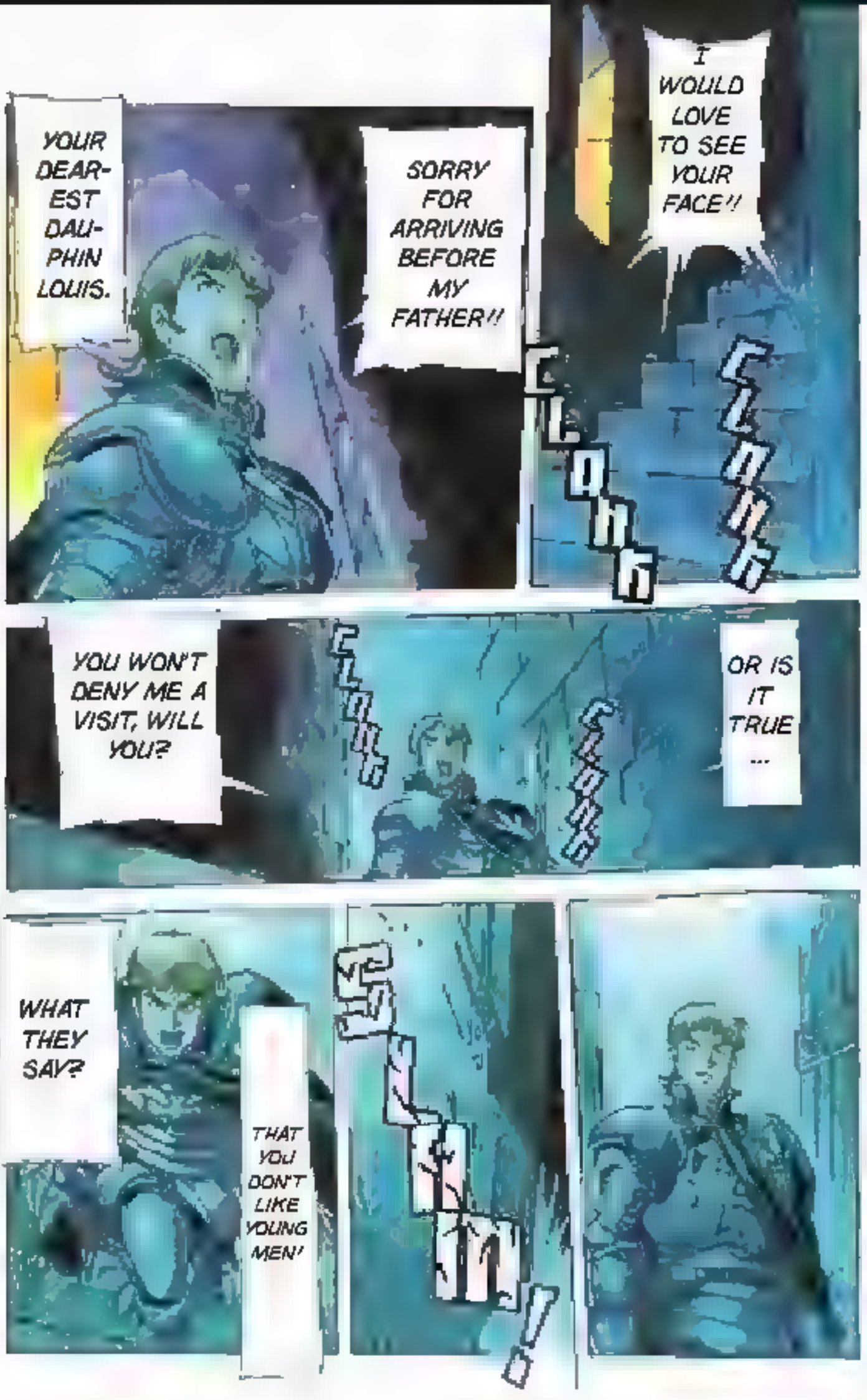
FOLLOW ME!!
WE'LL GO TO LOCHE.
WE MUST ARRIVE BEFORE THEM!!
THE DUKE OF BOURBON GUARDS LOCHE, DOES HE NOT?
SEND A FAST MES-SENGER THERE NOW!
TELL THEM TO GUARD AGAINST RICHEMONT !!

WE'LL WIN THIS WAR
IN ONE FELL SWOOP!!

NONE SHALL SEE US!


AGNES
//
FLEE
//
THE
DALI-
PHIN!
THE DALIPHIN'S
HERE!!!!


AIEEE!!
WAAAA
AGNES SOREL !!
I CAME HERE JUST TO SEE YOU!!


YOUR DEAREST DAUPHIN LOUIS.
SORRY FOR ARRIVING BEFORE MY FATHER!!
I WOULD LOVE TO SEE YOUR FACE!!
CLANK
CLANK
YOU WON'T DENY ME A VISIT, WILL YOU?
CLANK
CLANK
OR IS IT TRUE ...
WHAT THEY SAY?
THAT YOU DON'T LIKE YOUNG MEN!
CLANK!

PLEASE PUT THAT FOUL THING AWAY,
DAUPHIN.

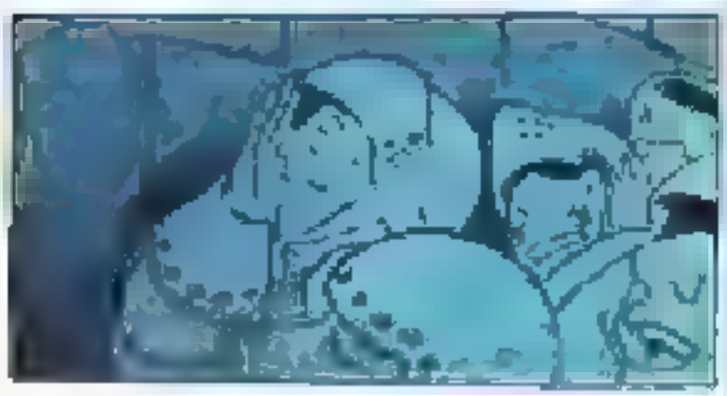
HUM.
HUHUH
CLONK
SLUT.
YOU SEDUCED FATHER WITH YOUR CHARM.
HE'S EVEN MORE TIMID SINCE HE MET YOU.
HE DISREGARDS POLITICS, DISGRACES MY MOTHER, AND IGNORES THE WARS.
YOU'RE THE TRUE ENEMY
I COULD CUT YOUR HEAD OFF HERE BUT...
STRIP.

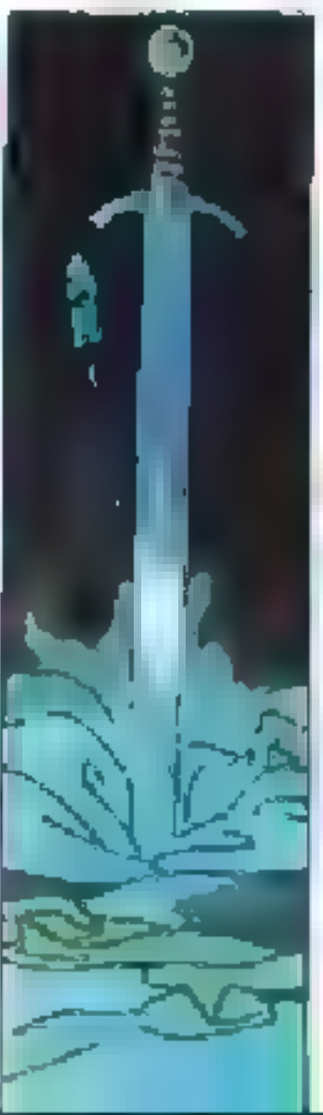
NO ?
DO YOU NEED MY HELP?
WHUMP

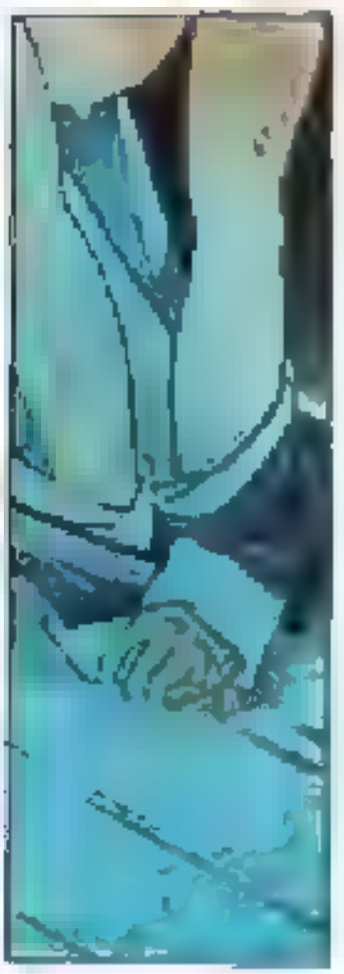
HEY
DUKE OF BOUR-BON'S HERE!
BUT THE DAUPHIN ...
SHH!

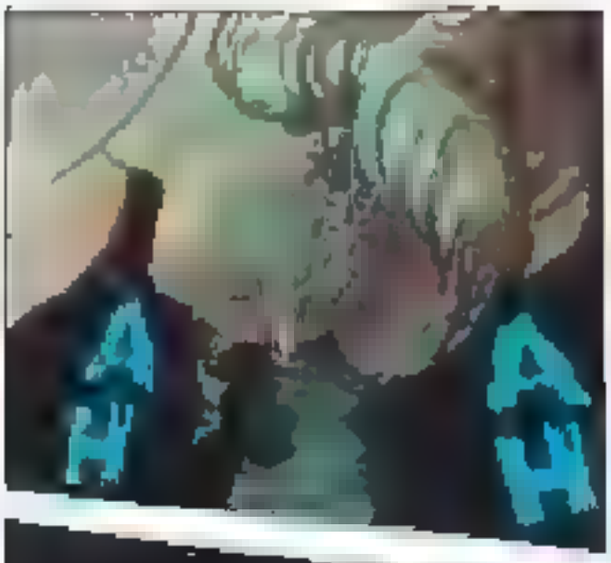
?
HOLD ON.
THIS WILL BE GOOD.

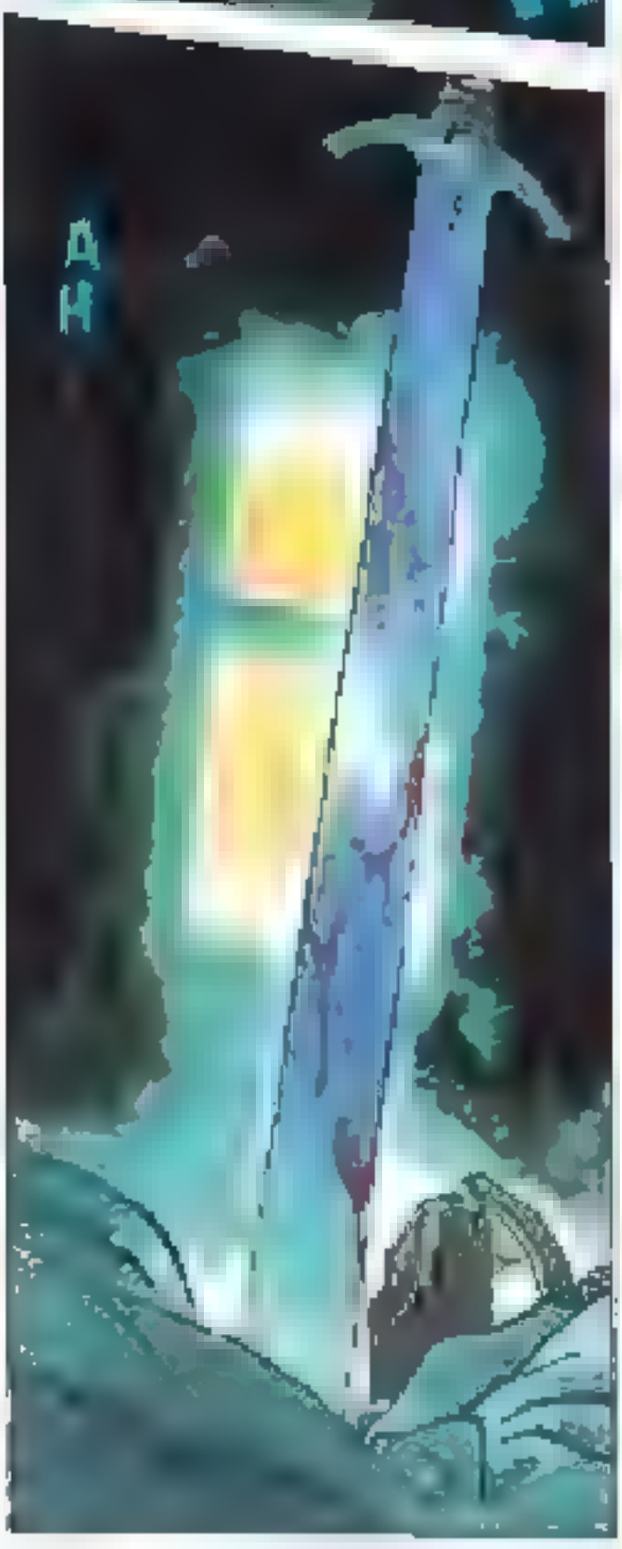
?
?



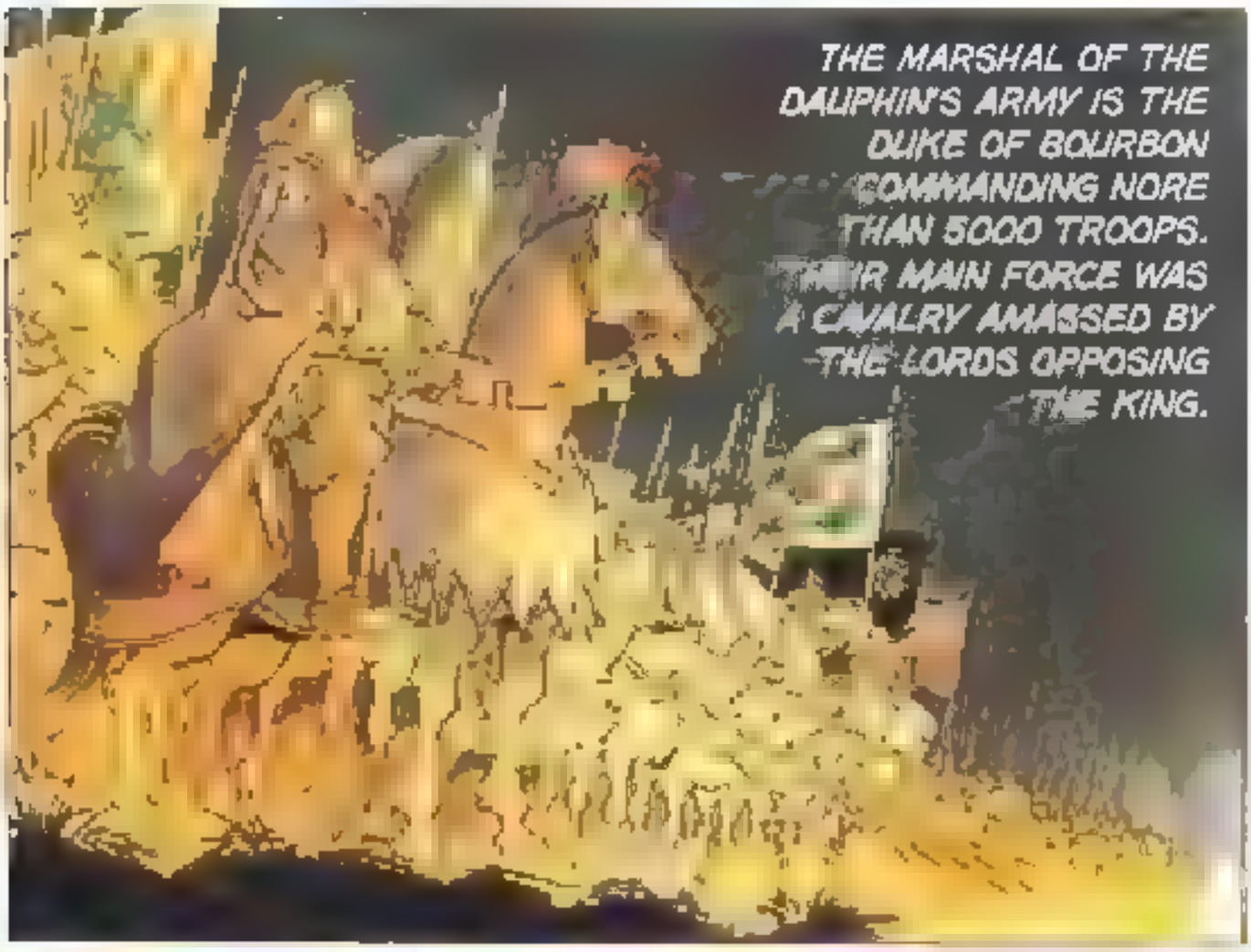




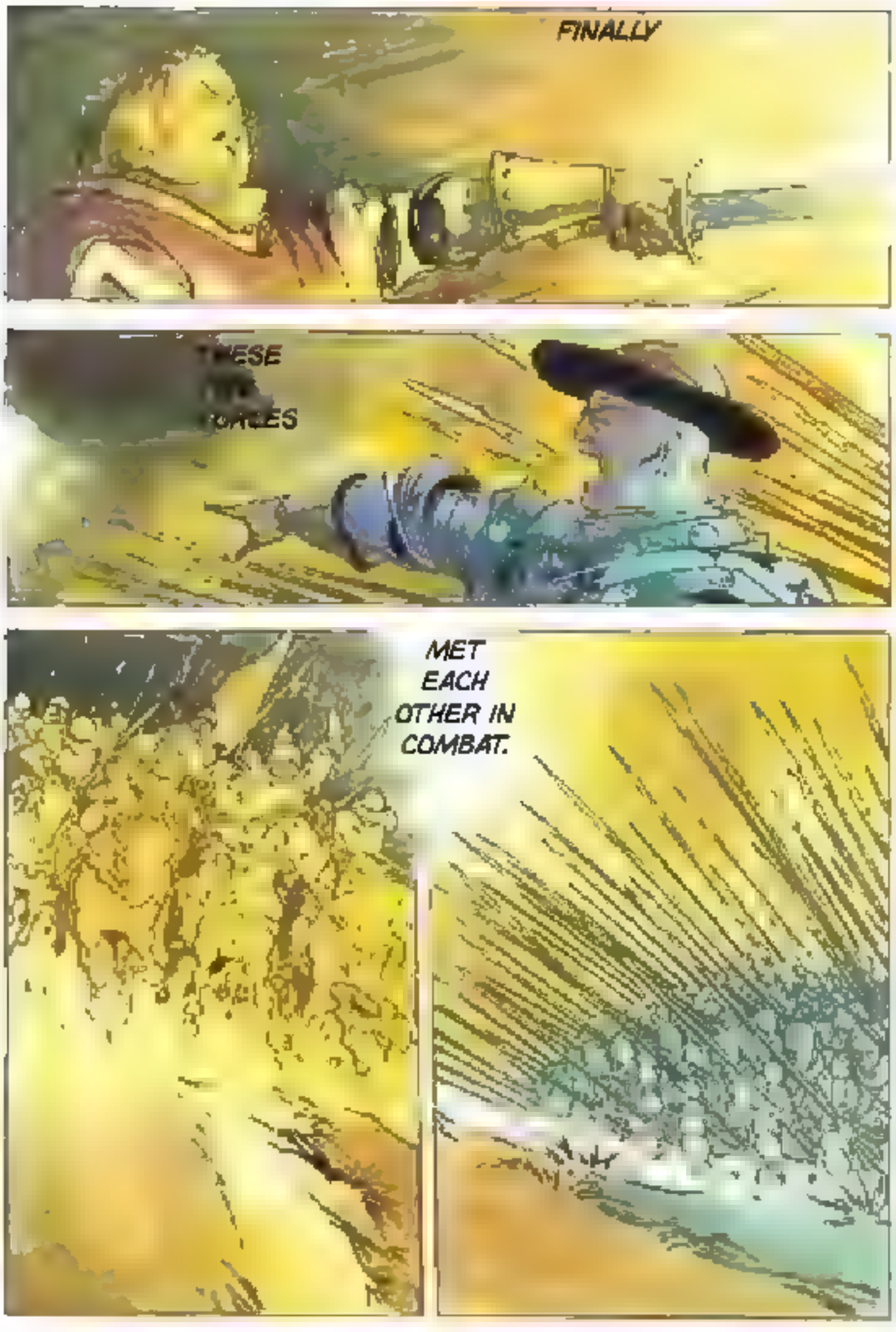

AH
AH

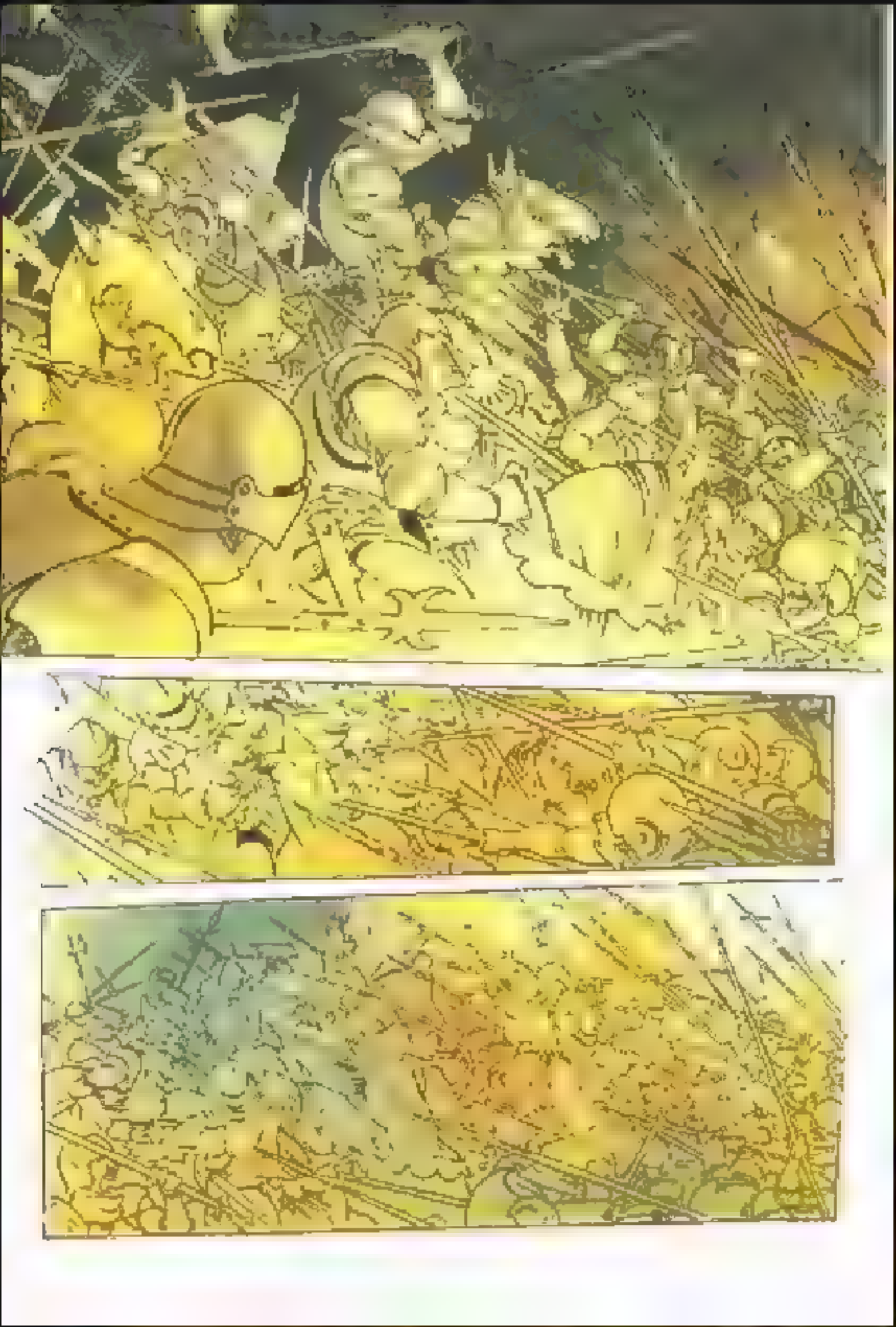

AH

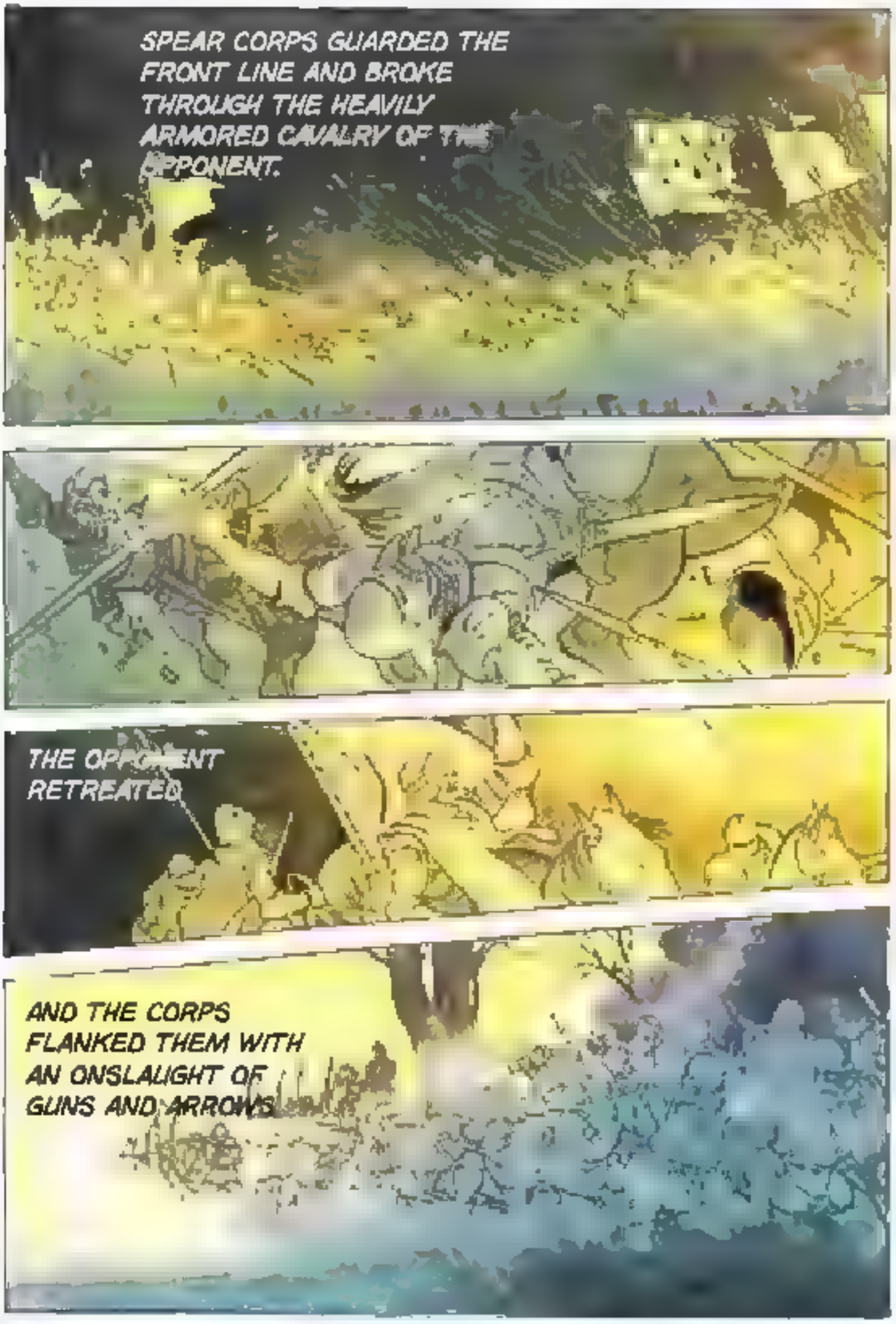
THE BATTLE FOR
ED INTO


THE MARSHAL OF THE DAUPHIN'S ARMY IS THE DUKE OF BOURBON
COMMANDING NORE THAN 5000 TROOPS.
IR MAIN FORCE WAS A CAVALRY AMASSED BY THE LORDS OPPOSING THE KING.

THE KING'S FORCES WERE LEAD BY CONSTABLE RICHEMONT
THEY NUM-BERED 8000 BRITTANY-STYLE INFANTRY CALLED "THE BRETONS."


FINALLY
MET
EACH
OTHER IN
COMBAT.

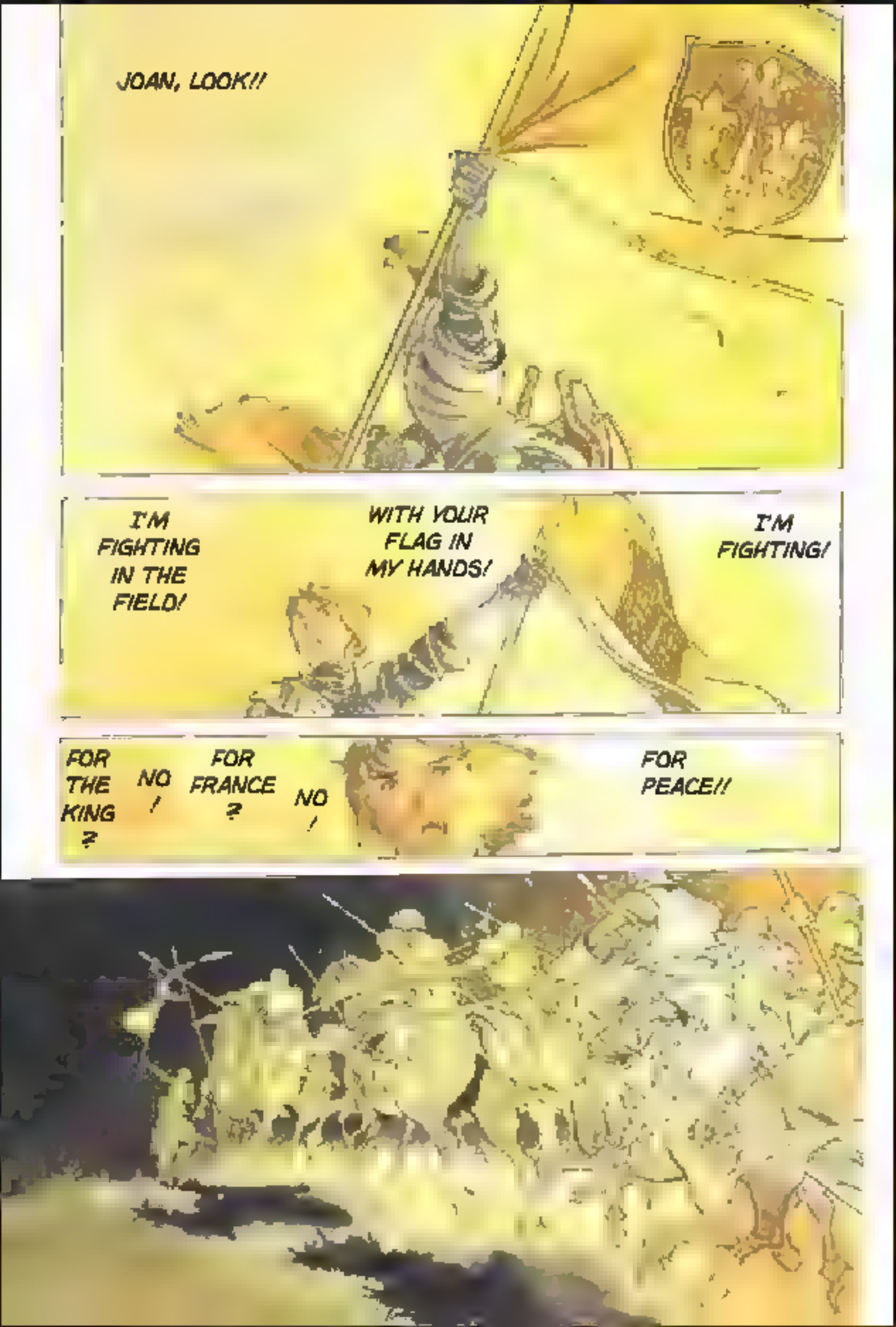



SPEAR CORPS GUARDED THE FRONT LINE AND BROKE THROUGH THE HEAVILY ARMORED CAVALRY OF THE OPPONENT.
THE OPPONENT RETREATED.
AND THE CORPS FLANKED THEM WITH AN ONSLAUGHT OF GUNS AND ARROWS.

TO OBSERVERS, IT WAS OBVIOUS WHICH SIDE W WINNING.

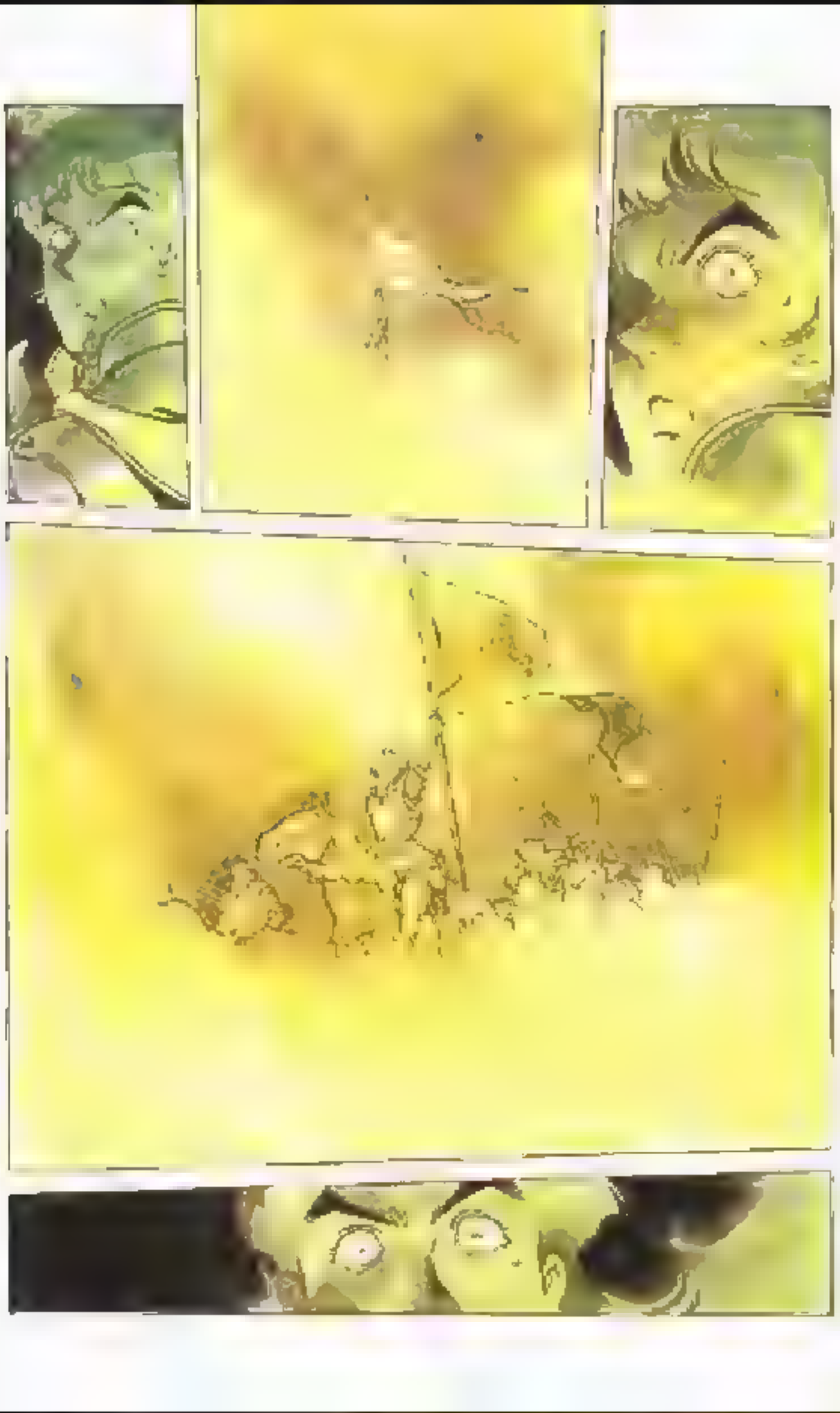
WA
THE LEFT WING IS VULNER-ABLE..
VICTO-RY IS NEAR.
...
EMIL DE BAUD-RI-COURT!
ATTACK THERE! TAKE A SMALL CORPS!
SIR!
YES, SIR!!

RAISE THE FLAG HIGH
SO THAT OUR FOE MAY SEE IT.
CLUD
FLAP!
FOLLOW ME!!


JOAN, LOOK!!
I'M FIGHTING IN THE FIELD!
WITH YOUR FLAG IN MY HANDS!
I'M FIGHTING!
FOR THE KING ?
NO !
FOR FRANCE ?
NO !
FOR PEACE!!

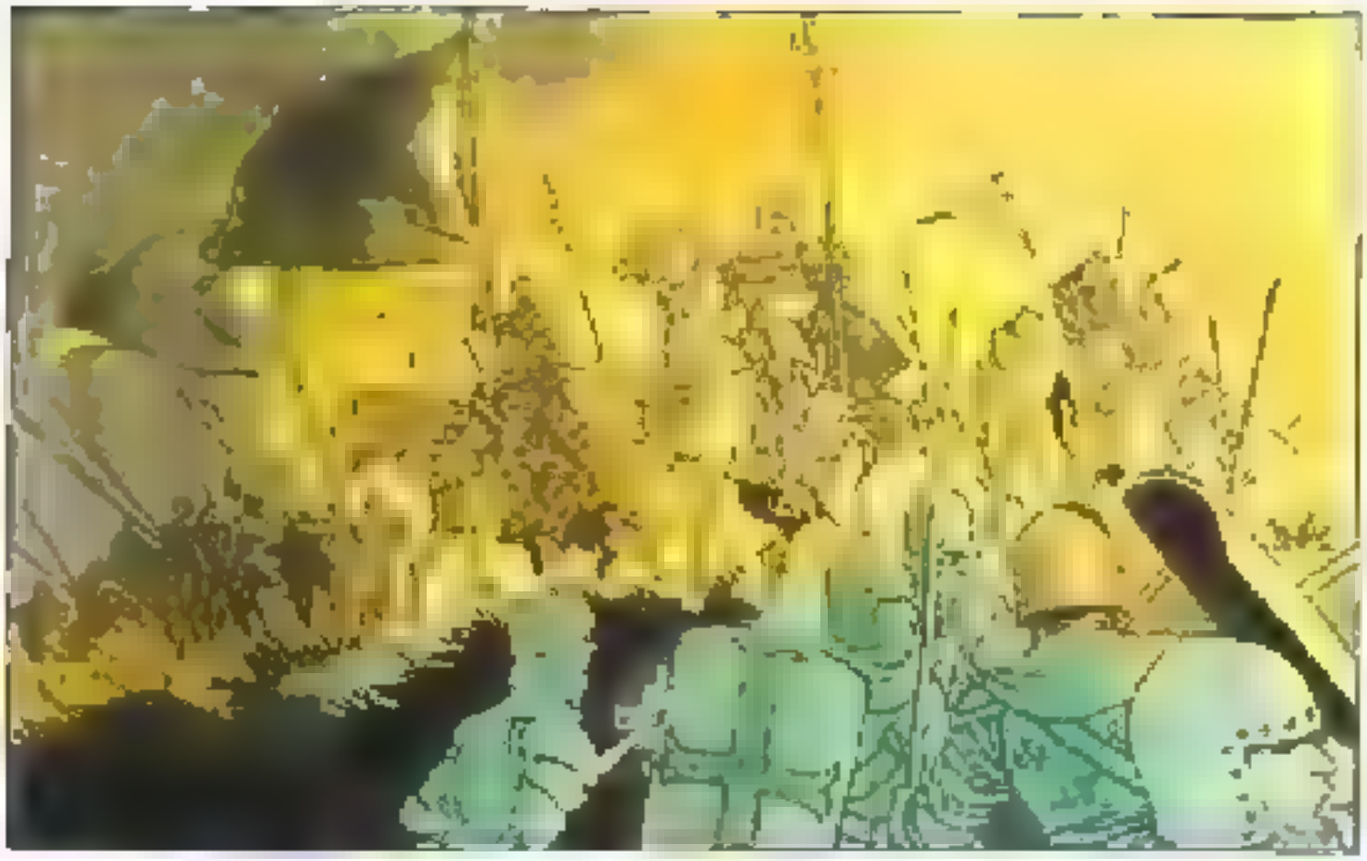
IT'S "LA PUCELLE!!"
"LA PUCELLE" IS LEADING THE ENEMY!!
JOAN IS BACK!
JOAN IS COMING FOR US!
H M M

WHAT'S WRONG BOUR-BON?
DON'T WITH-DRAW!
RALLY YOUR MEN!
JOAN OF ARC?
BULL SHIT!
BOURBON!
THAT'S ENOUGH !!
I'LL TAKE CARE OF THE REST!!
IT WAS MY MISTAKE TO PUT A LOSER LIKE YOU IN CHARGE!
DAMN YOU!

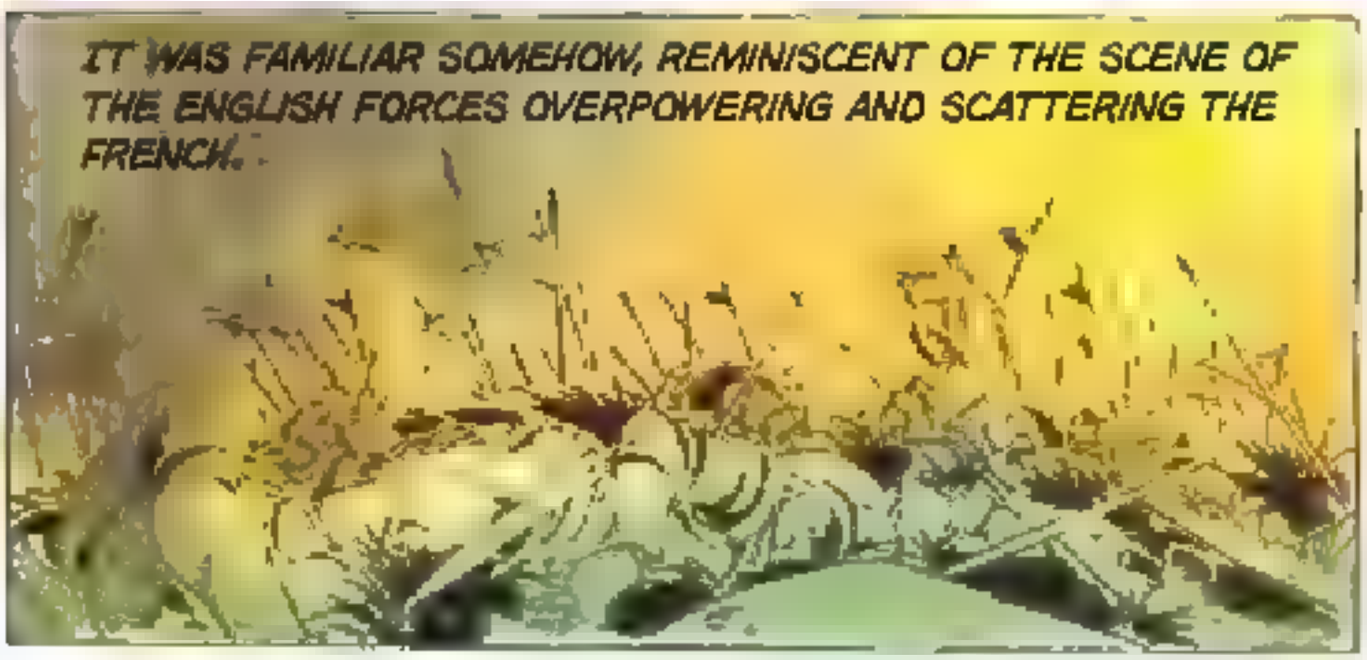


Chapter 2

ALENCON



THE DAUPHIN'S ARMY
SOON FELL APART.

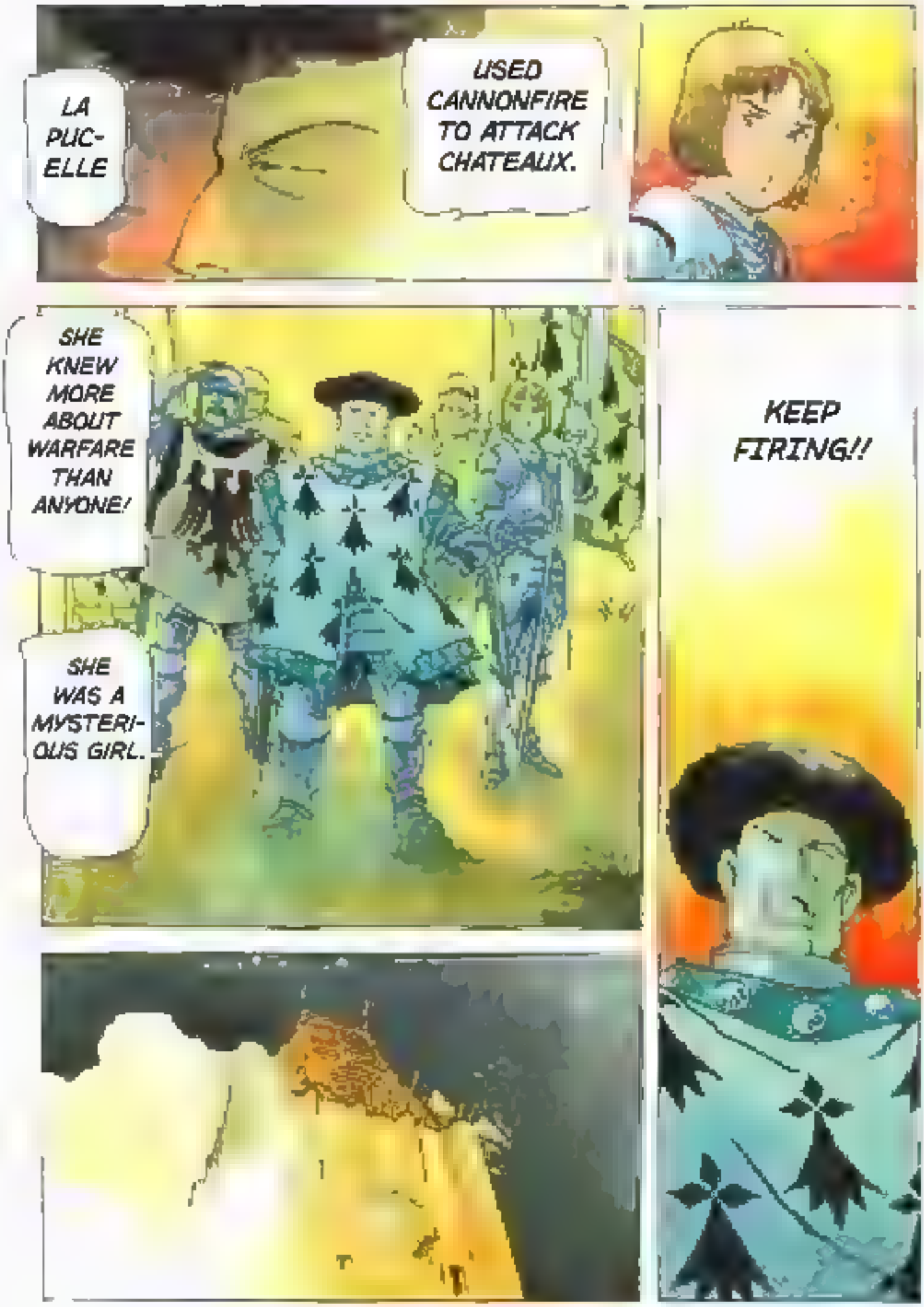

IT WAS FAMILIAR SOMEHOW, REMINISCENT OF THE SCENE OF THE ENGLISH FORCES OVERPOWERING AND SCATTERING THE FRENCH.

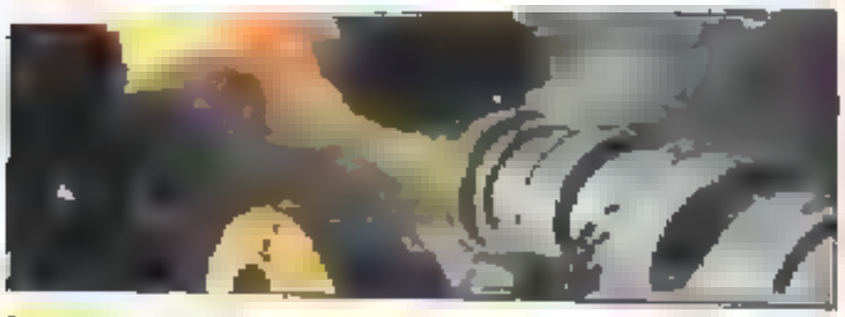
THE TRADI-
BUT
NOT
THE
ONLY
REASON.
STYLE THE
KING HAD
ADOPTED.
LOUIS
WAS THE
ONE WHO
LOST-
FIRST.
HE WAS
TRAPPED IN
THE EXPERI-
ENCED
CONSTABLE
RICHEMONT'S
PLOT.
SUPPORT
POWERFUL
HE HAD
THE ADVANTAGE.
NEVERTHELESS,
HE DID NOT TRY A
UNIFIED ATTACK,
BUT INSTEAD
CHARGED ON
ALONE. BY THE
TIME HE REALIZED
WHAT WAS HAP-
PENING, HE HAD
ALREADY LOST.
HIM OVER-
EXCITED. HE
HAD FOCUSED
ENTIRELY ON
HER. HIS YOUNG
BLOOD MADE A
FATAL MISTAKE
OF SHORT-
SIGHTEDNESS
AT THE VERY
FINAL STAGE OF
THE BATTLE.

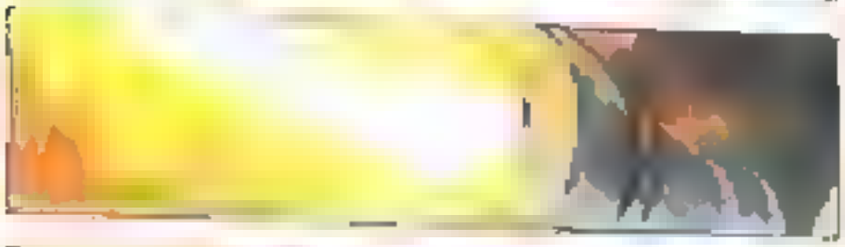
BOOM

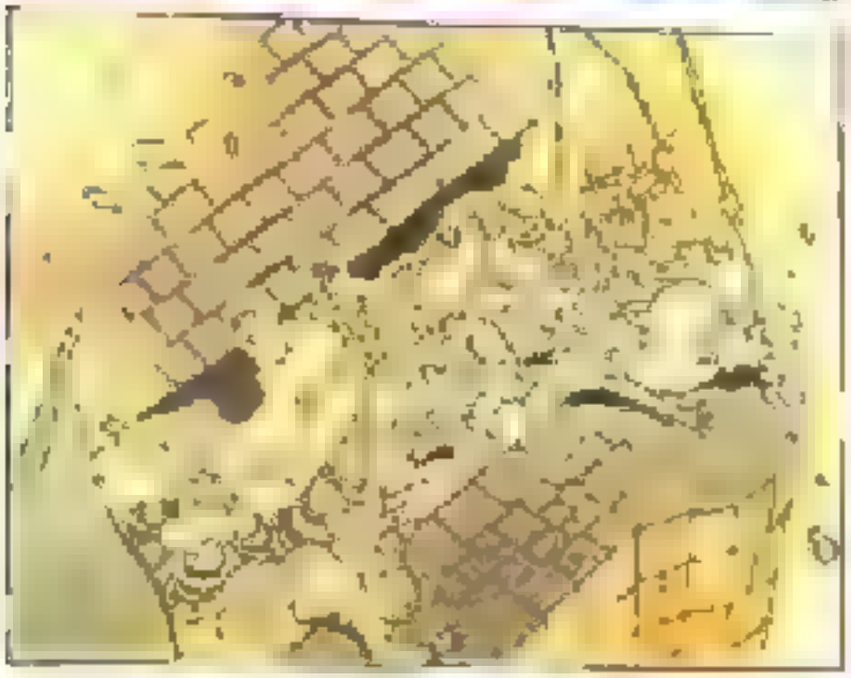
DAMN IT!
STOP SHOOTING!
I'LL THROW DOWN EVERY WOMAN IN THE CHATEAU!!
OR ELSE!

VRRRM

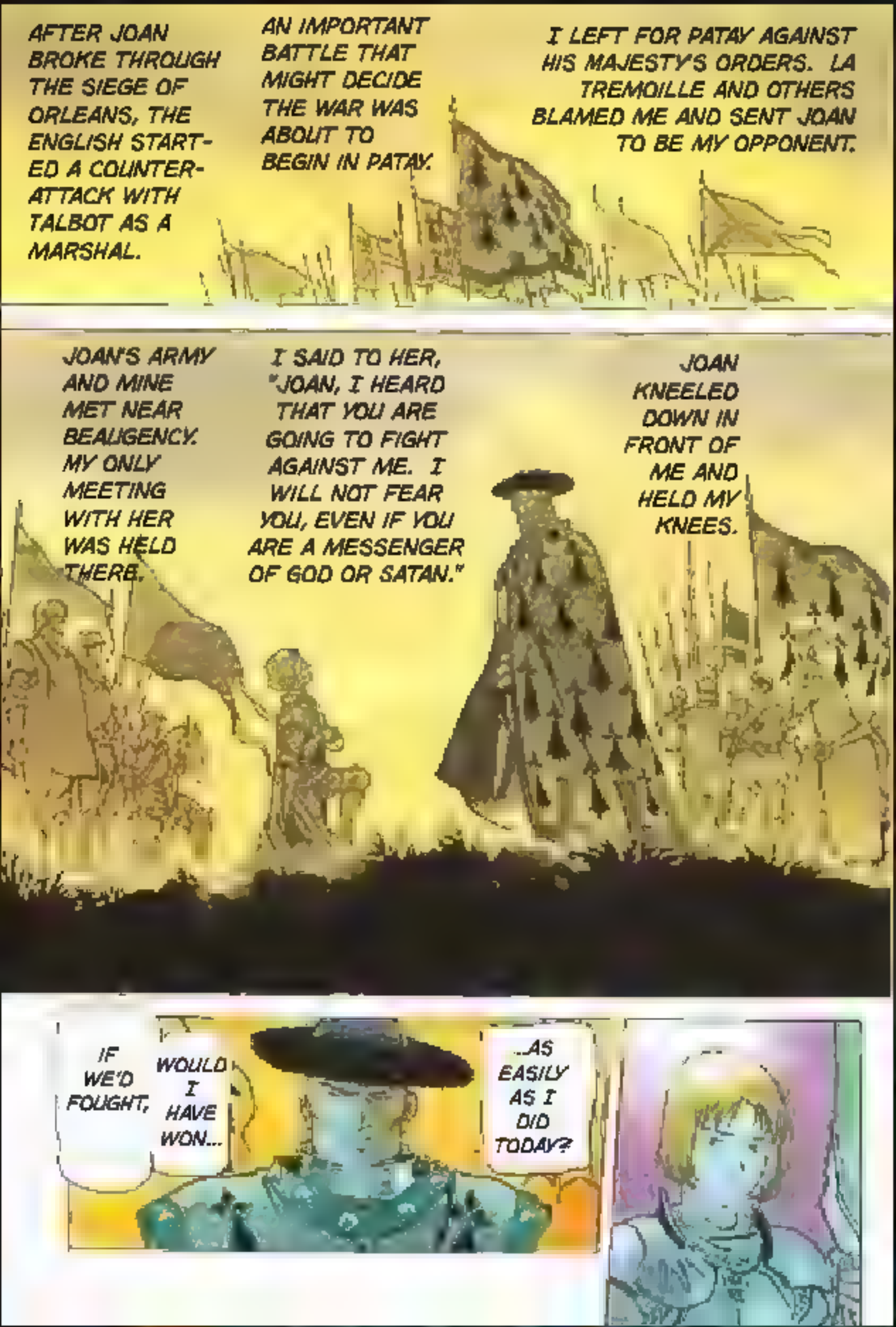

LA PUC-ELLE
USED CANNONFIRE TO ATTACK CHATEAUX.
SHE KNEW MORE ABOUT WARFARE THAN ANYONE!
SHE WAS A MYSTERI-OUS GIRL.
KEEP FIRING!!



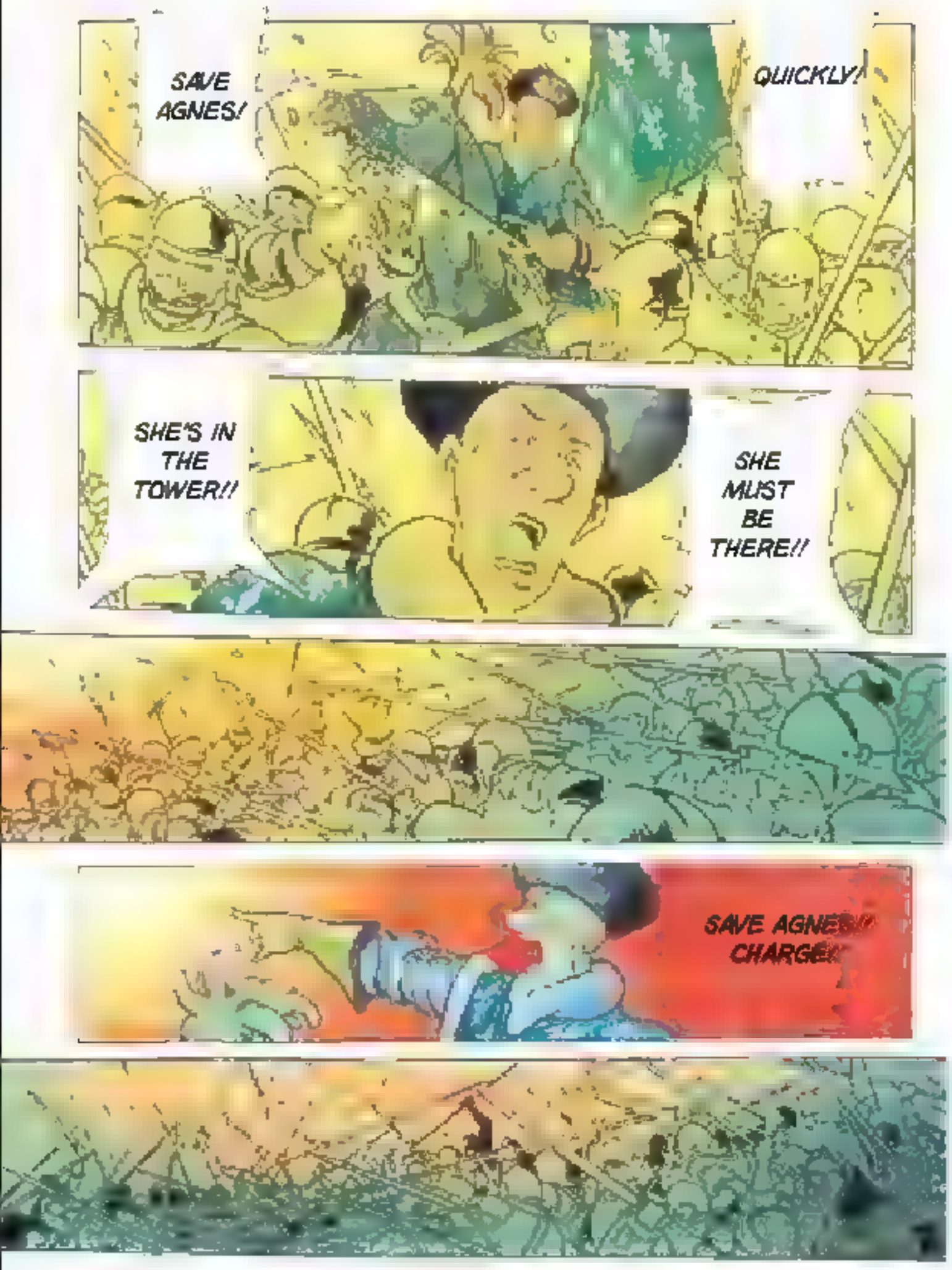


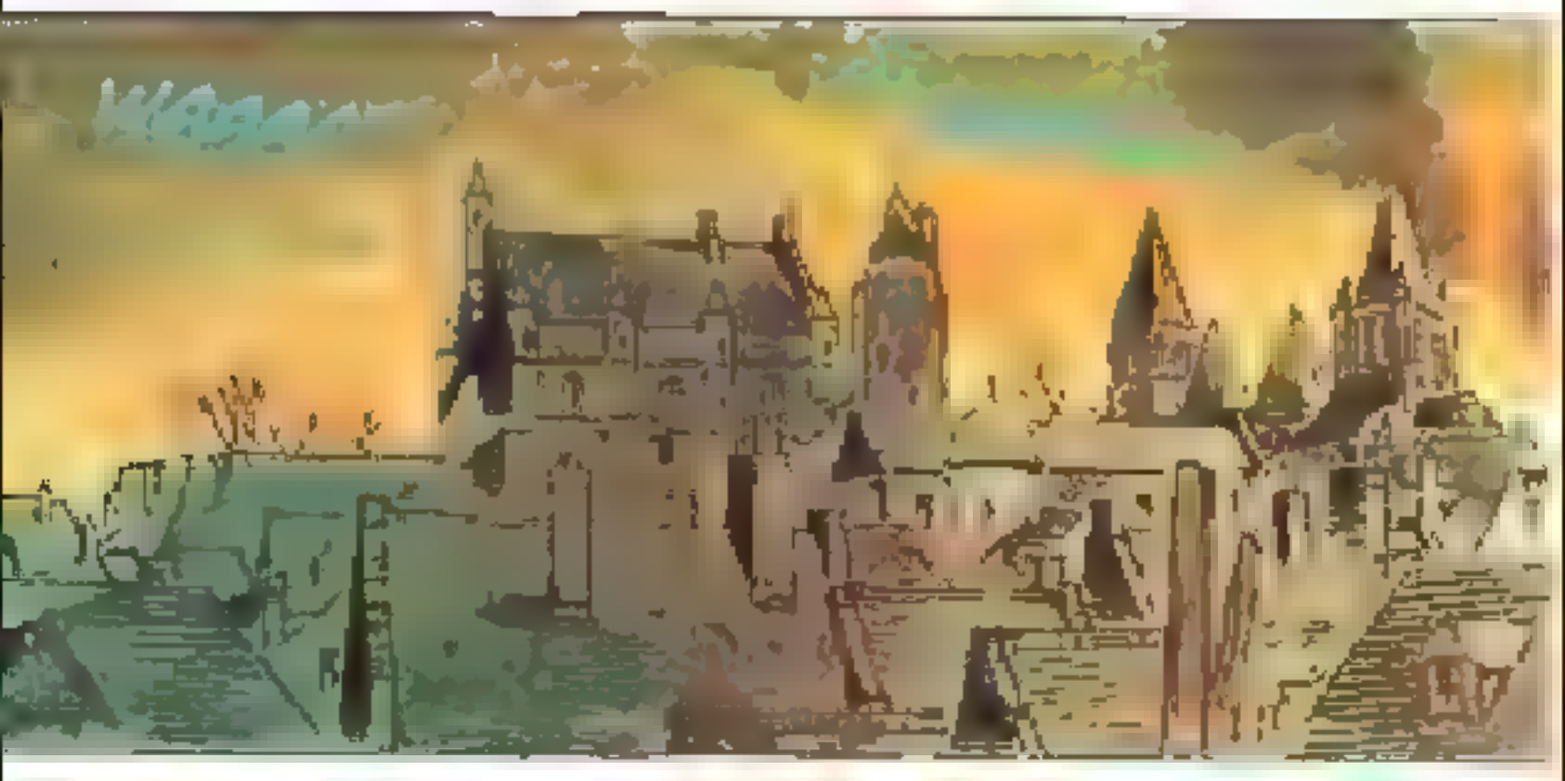


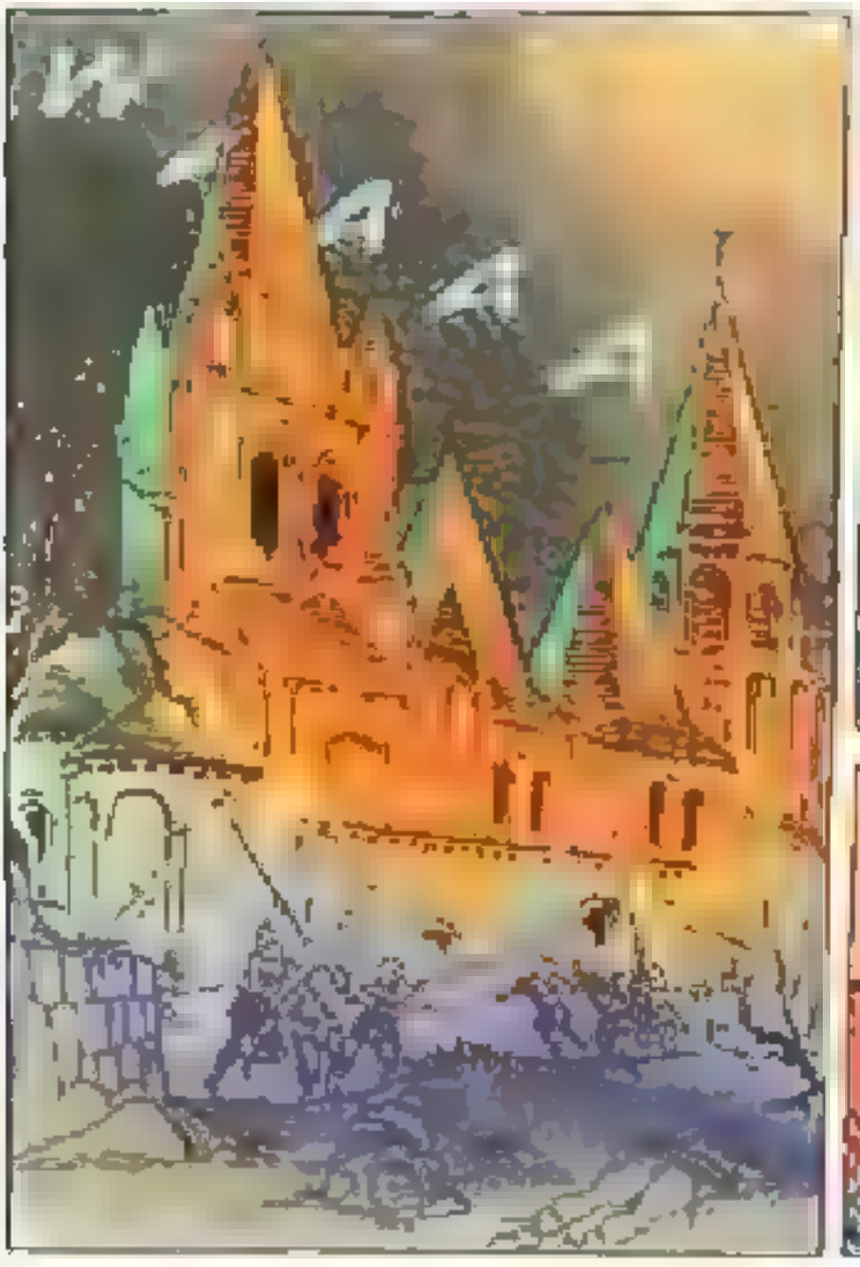
BACK THEN, I WAS FORCED TO FIGHT JOAN
BY THE KING'S MEN.

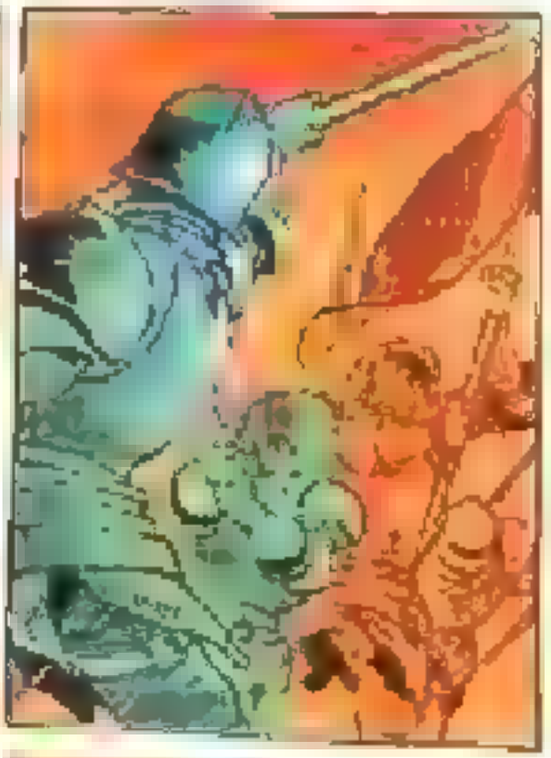

AFTER JOAN BROKE THROUGH THE SIEGE OF ORLEANS, THE ENGLISH START-ED A COUNTER-ATTACK WITH TALBOT AS A MARSHAL.
AN IMPORTANT BATTLE THAT MIGHT DECIDE THE WAR WAS ABOUT TO BEGIN IN PATAY.
I LEFT FOR PATAY AGAINST HIS MAJESTY'S ORDERS. LA TREMOILLE AND OTHERS BLAMED ME AND SENT JOAN TO BE MY OPPONENT.
JOAN'S ARMY AND MINE MET NEAR BEAUGENCY. MY ONLY MEETING WITH HER WAS HELD THERE.
I SAID TO HER, "JOAN, I HEARD THAT YOU ARE GOING TO FIGHT AGAINST ME. I WILL NOT FEAR YOU, EVEN IF YOU ARE A MESSENGER OF GOD OR SATAN."
JOAN KNEELED DOWN IN FRONT OF ME AND HELD MY KNEES.
IF WE'D FOUGHT,
WOULD I HAVE WON...
...AS EASILY AS I DID TODAY?

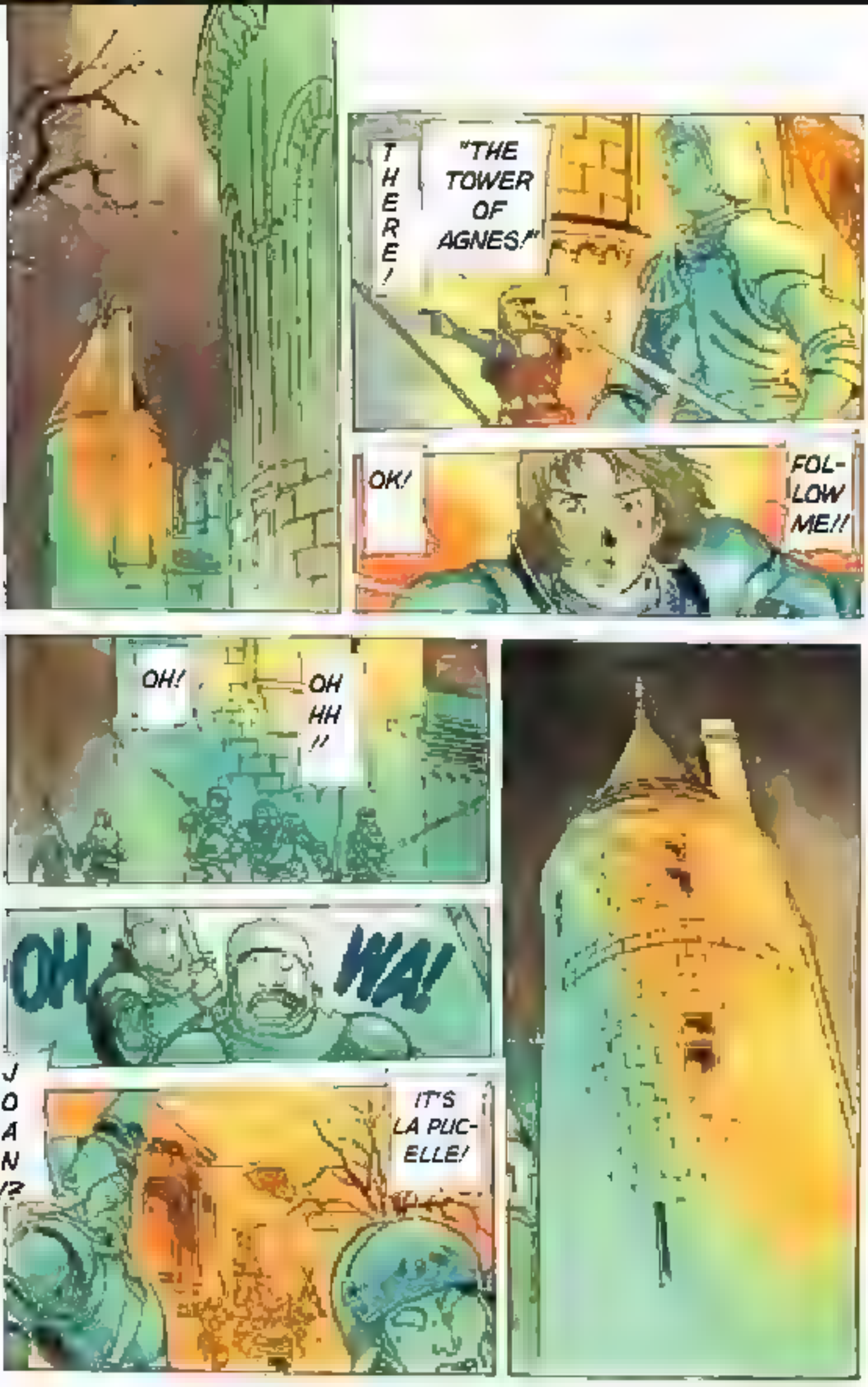
WAAAAA

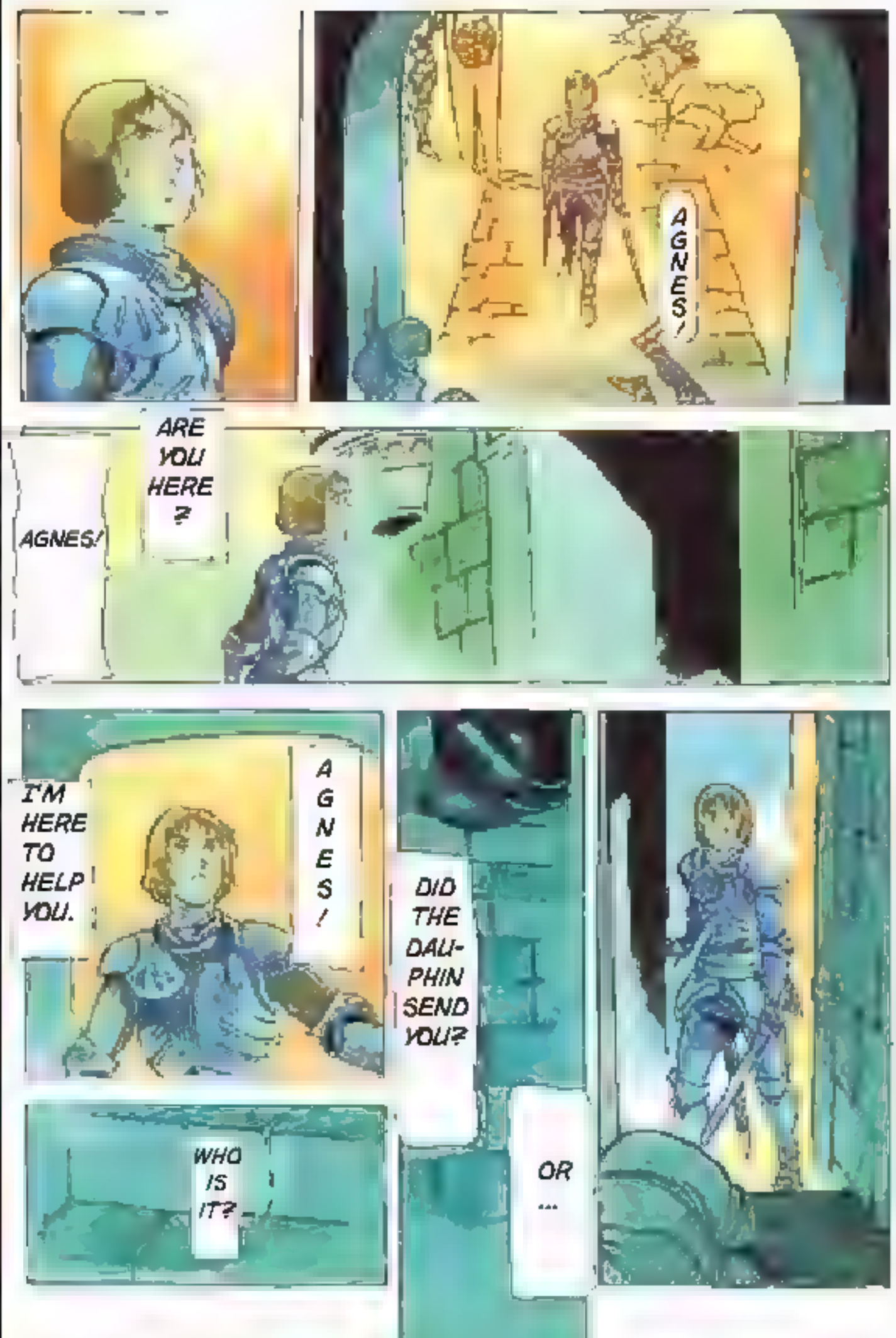

SAVE AGNES!
QUICKLY!
SHE'S IN THE TOWER!!
SHE MUST BE THERE!!
SAVE AGNES!! CHARGE!!



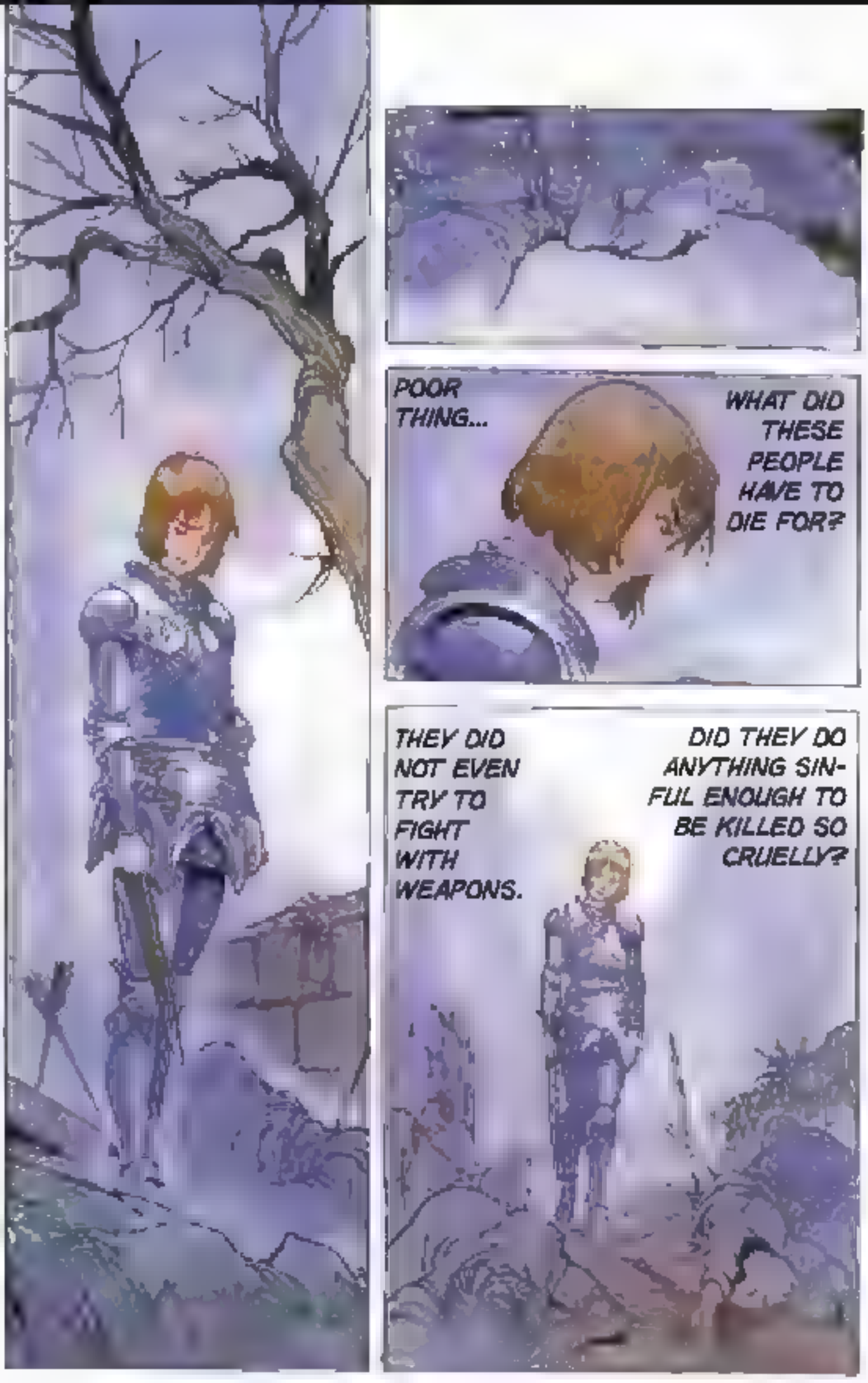




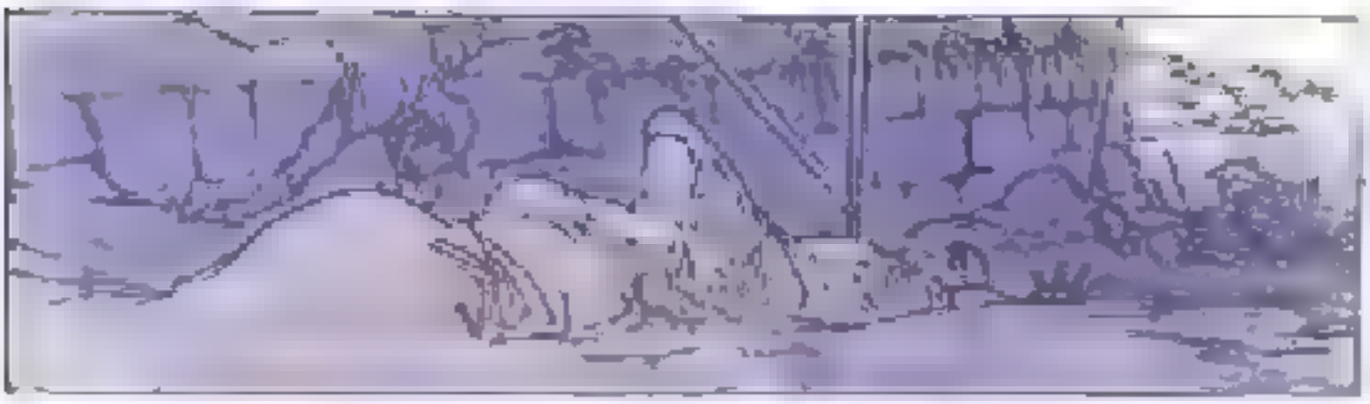

THERE!
"THE TOWER OF AGNES!"
OK!
FOL-LOW ME!!
OH!
OH HH !!
OH
HA!
IT'S LA PUC-ELLE!
JOAN!?


AGNES!
ARE YOU HERE?
AGNES!
I'M HERE TO HELP YOU.
AGNES!
DID THE DAU-PHIN SEND YOU?
WHO IS IT?
OR ...

!
AGNES!
AGNES!
OH, NO ...
ARE YOU ALL RIGHT?
GOOD, GOOD, GOOD!!
I WAS SO WORRIED..
I'VE NEVER FORGOTTEN YOU, EVEN WHEN I WAS ON THE RUN FROM THE ANTI-KING FORCES!!
I'VE MISSED YOU SO!!
ALL IS GOOD NOW!
THERE, THERE.


POOR THING...
WHAT DID THESE PEOPLE HAVE TO DIE FOR?
THEY DID NOT EVEN TRY TO FIGHT WITH WEAPONS.
DID THEY DO ANYTHING SINFUL ENOUGH TO BE KILLED SO CRUELLY?

THE KING, THE QUEEN ...
THE NAMELESS SERVANTS, WOMEN AND CHILDREN, EVERYONE WAS BORN WITH ONLY ONE L WITH WHICH TO STR FOR HAPPINESS.



DOES GOD WISH MORE DEATH ?
TO ADD TO JOAN'S SACRI- FICE ...?

DID YOU!
LISTEN TO THEIR CONFES-SIONS?

YES. I DID.

HERE?
NO
I'M A TRA-VELING MONK
NO ONE GOES TO THIS CHURCH.

NO ONE?
MUST HAVE BEEN MANY GREAT MONKS HERE...
U M
MAY I HAVE YOUR NAME ?
MARTIN LAVENU.
BROTHER MARTIN, PLEASE TELL ME.
IF WE DO NOT CON-FESS,
CAN WE GO TO HEA-VEN?

YES.
CONFESSION IS NOT TO JUDGE PEOPLE.
GOD LOVES ONE AND ALL.
ALL OF US ARE LAMBS OF GOD.
LOST LAMBS, ARE WE NOT?
THAT'S WHY, AT DEATH, WE ARE IN AWE OF GOD,
AND WE ASK FOR COFESSION..
IF IT EASES PEOPLE INTO HEAVEN
I LISTEN TO THEM.

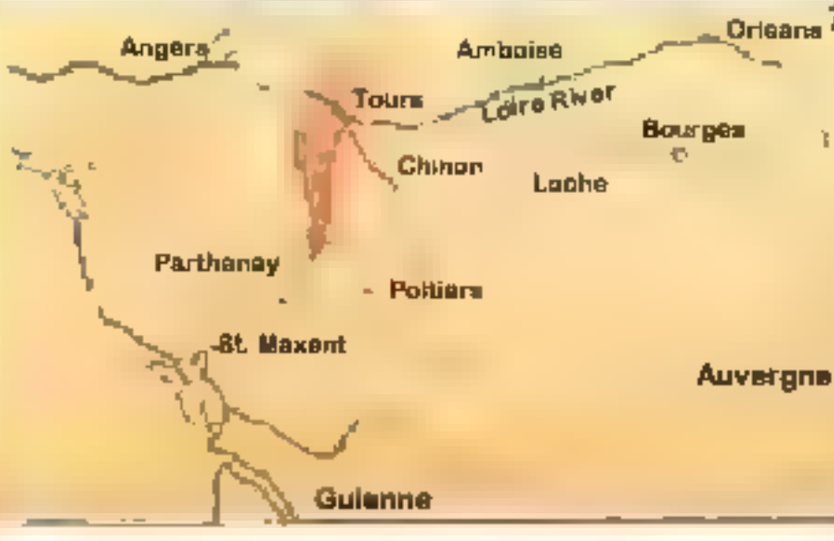
THE BATTLE OF LOCHE ENDED.

THE DAUPHIN'S PARTY LOST AND THE DAUPHIN AND DUKE OF BOURBON ESCAPED TO AUVERGNE.

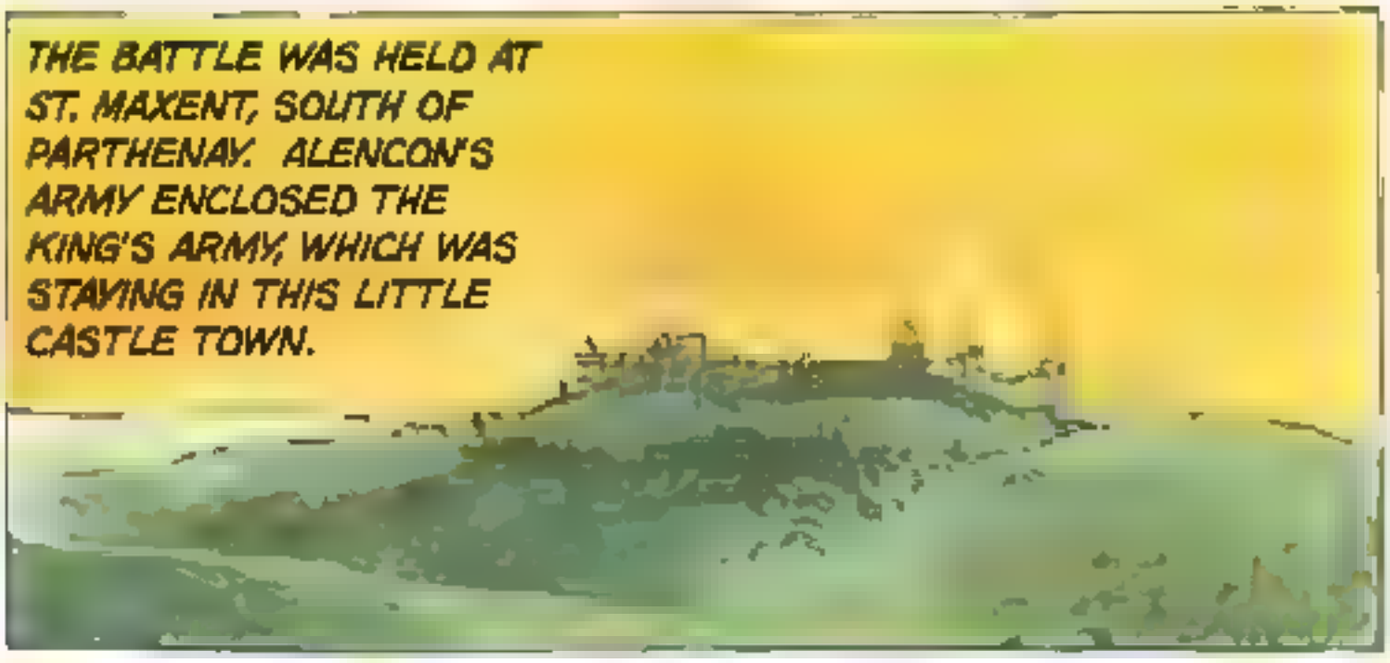
THE FATE OF THE PRAGUERIE REVOLT, WHICH HAD SO SHOCKED THE KINGDOM, [illegible] QUICKLY.

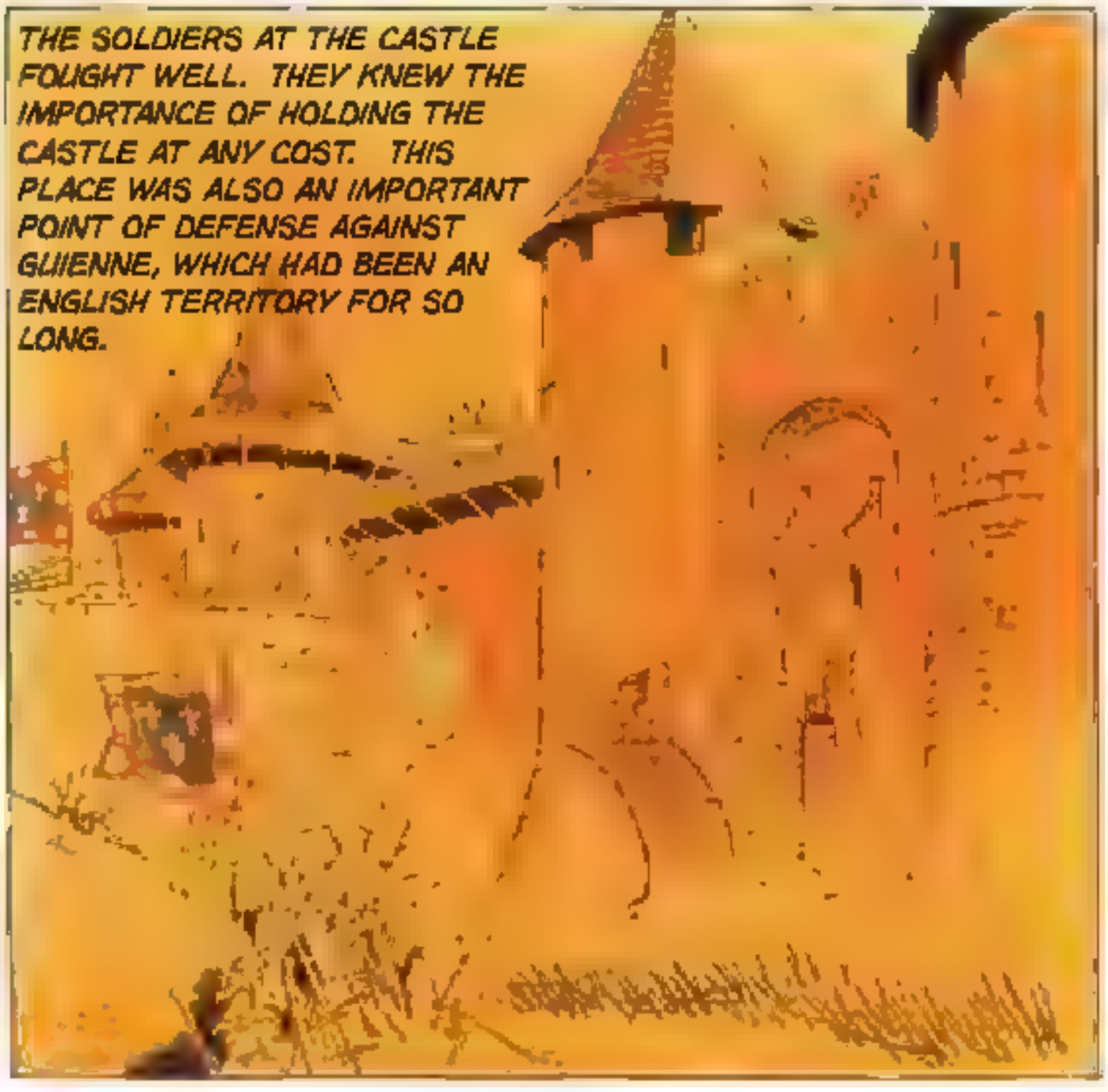
HOWEVER, THE REVOLT ITSELF DID NOT END.

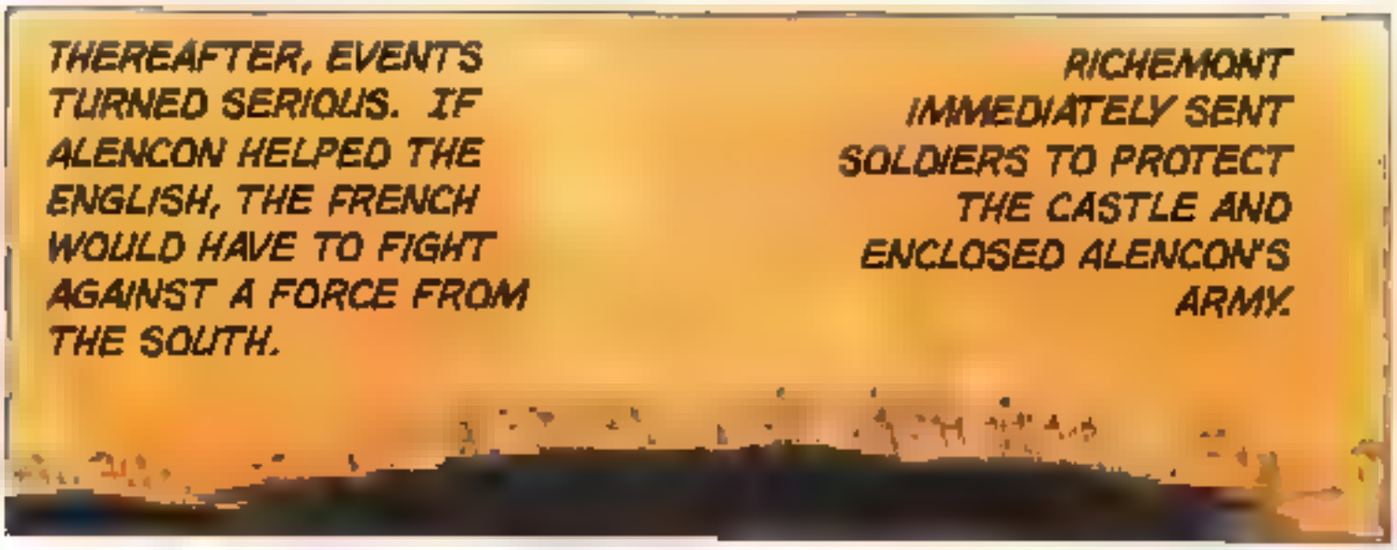
THERE WAS ONE GENERAL WHO STOOD AGAINST CONSTABLE RICHEMONT. HE WAS THE DUKE OF ALENCON.



THIS DUKE TRIED A NEW, DESPERATE STRATEGY. HE LAUNCHED A SNEAK ATTACK ON PARTHENAY, CONSTABLE RICHEMONT'S TERRITORY, WHILE RICHEMONT WAS ENGAGED AT THE BATTLE OF LOCHE.

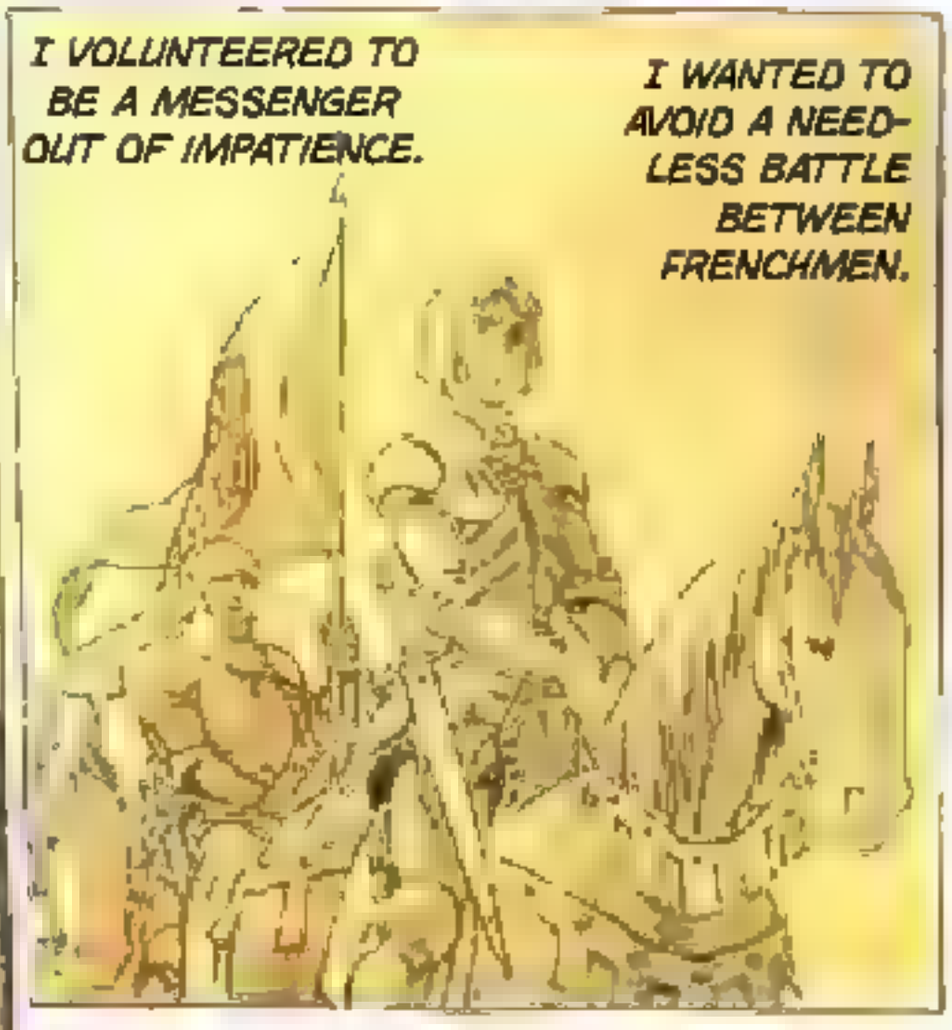

THE BATTLE WAS HELD AT ST. MAXENT, SOUTH OF PARTHENAY. ALENCON'S ARMY ENCLOSED THE KING'S ARMY, WHICH WAS STAYING IN THIS LITTLE CASTLE TOWN.

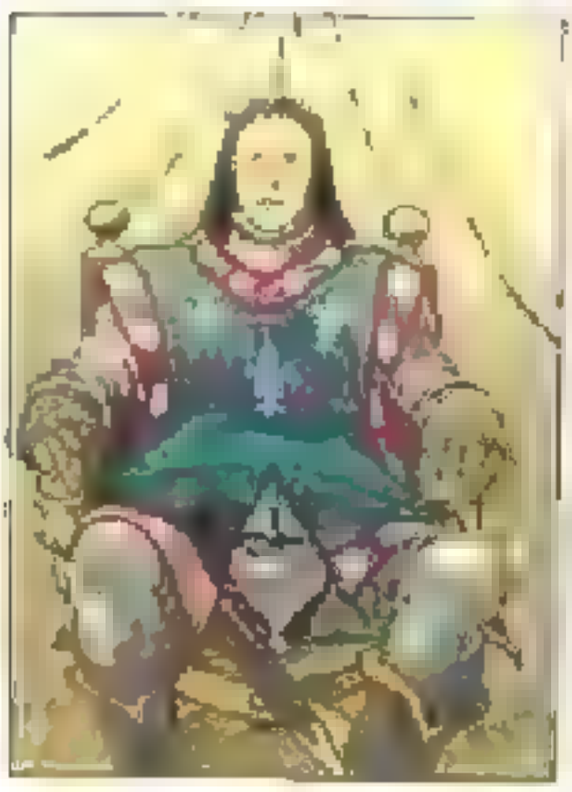

THE SOLDIERS AT THE CASTLE FOUGHT WELL. THEY KNEW THE IMPORTANCE OF HOLDING THE CASTLE AT ANY COST. THIS PLACE WAS ALSO AN IMPORTANT POINT OF DEFENSE AGAINST GUIENNE, WHICH HAD BEEN AN ENGLISH TERRITORY FOR SO LONG.

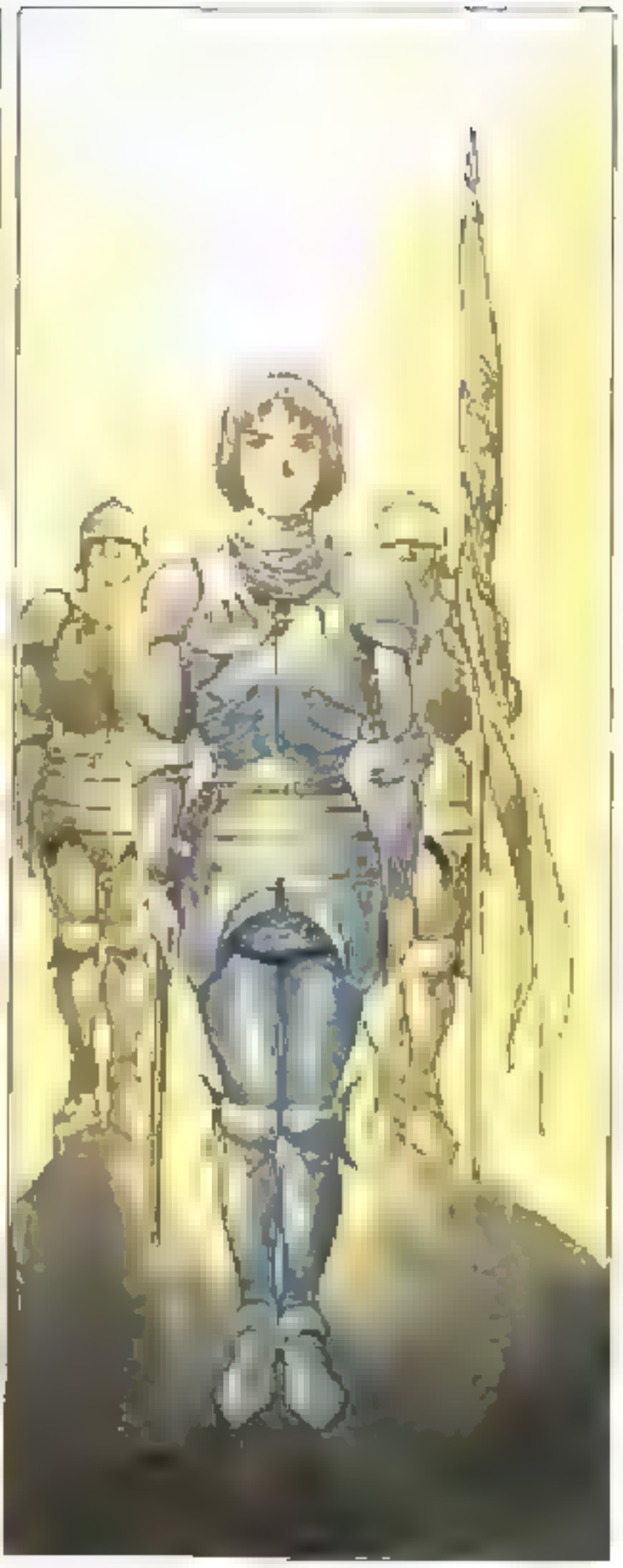

THEREAFTER, EVENTS TURNED SERIOUS. IF ALENCON HELPED THE ENGLISH, THE FRENCH WOULD HAVE TO FIGHT AGAINST A FORCE FROM THE SOUTH.
RICHEMONT IMMEDIATELY SENT SOLDIERS TO PROTECT THE CASTLE AND ENCLOSED ALENCON'S ARMY.

THE BATTLE WAS TAKING ON AN OMINOUS ATMOSPHERE.

WHATE VER THE RESULT ...
A MAS- SACRE BLOODIER THAN THE BATTLE OFLOCHE SEEMED CERTAIN.


I VOLUNTEERED TO BE A MESSENGER OUT OF IMPATIENCE.
I WANTED TO AVOID A NEED- LESS BATTLE BETWEEN FRENCHMEN.





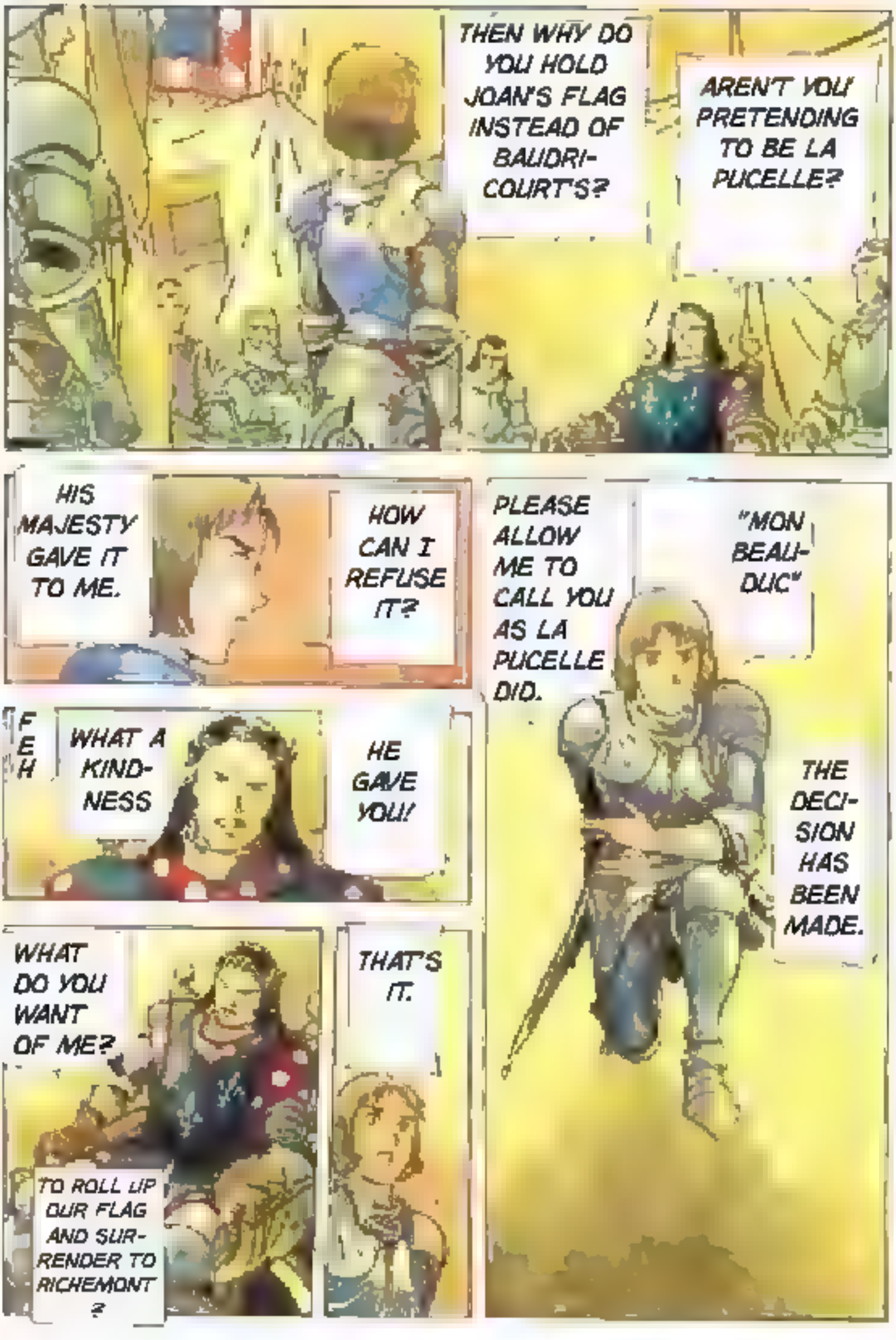
LONG TIME NO SEE.
WE MET ONCE, DIDN'T WE?
IN THE HOUSE OF THE BASTARD OF ORLEANS!

ARE YOU THE COPY CAT OF JOAN
WHO RODE AT LOCHE?

NO.
I'M NOT A COPY CAT.

DON'T LIE TO ME!!

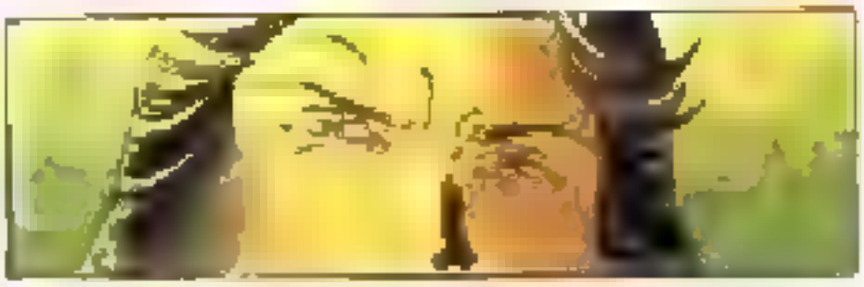
I'M EMIL SON OF BAUDRICOURT IN LORRAINE.
I CAME ON MY FATHER'S ORDER TO FIGHT FOR THE KING.


THEN WHY DO YOU HOLD JOAN'S FLAG INSTEAD OF BALIDRI-COURT'S?
AREN'T YOU PRETENDING TO BE LA PUCELLE?
HIS MAJESTY GAVE IT TO ME.
HOW CAN I REFUSE IT?
PLEASE ALLOW ME TO CALL YOU AS LA PUCELLE DID.
"MON BEAU-DUC"
F E H
WHAT A KIND-NESS
HE GAVE YOU!
THE DECI-SION HAS BEEN MADE.
WHAT DO YOU WANT OF ME?
THAT'S IT.
TO ROLL UP OUR FLAG AND SUR-RENDER TO RICHEMONT ?

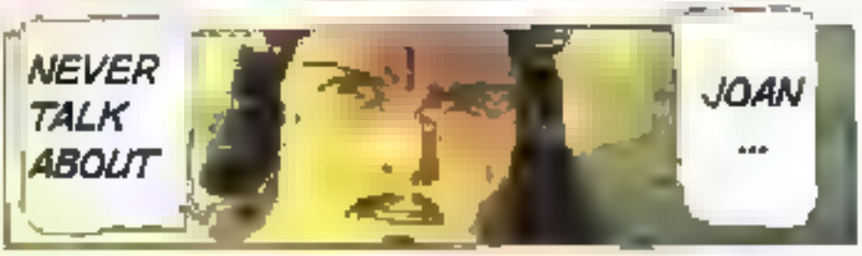
BOTH THE DUKE AND THE DAUPHIN HAVE WITH-DRAWN THEIR ARMIES.
SO MUCH BLOOD WAS SHED IN LOCHE.
ISN'T IT ENOUGH ?

WHAT WILL THIS BATTLE GAIN FOR YOU OR US?
HIS MAJESTY AND CONSTABLE RICHEMONT WON'T BE HARSH ON YOU IF YOU STOP NOW.

PLEASE STOP THE WAR!
LA PUCELLE WHO ADMIRED YOU
MUST BE WISH -ING IT SO!



SON OF BALIORI COURT.
I DO NOT KNOW ABOUT THE OTHERS, BUT IN MY PRESENCE, YOU MUST...


NEVER TALK ABOUT
JOAN ...

I DO HOLD A GRUDGE AGAINST KING CHARLES!
!
TO TELL THE TRUTH, I...
HIS MAJESTY SEPARATED JOAN AND ME.
AND WHY? FEAR.
HE WAS SCARED MY GROWING FAME WAS A THREAT TO HIM.
I WOULD RATHER GIVE FRANCE TO THE ENGLISH,
HE'S THAT KIND OF MAN...
PETTY...
JEALOUS AND ONLY THINKING OF HIMSELF...
THAN HAVE A PERSON LIKE HIM AS THE KING!!

WHEN WE FOUND OUT THAT THE FOOLISH ORDERS OF THE KING FORCED ME TO GO TO NORMANDY AND JOAN TO LOIRE, SHE WAS VERY SAD AND TOLD ME TO TAKE HER WITH ME. IT WAS HARD FOR ME, TOO. WE WERE TRAINED IN THE SAME SPEAR FIGHT, RAN IN THE MIDDLE OF ARROWS IN JARGEAU AND PATAY, AND SHE EVEN SAVED MY LIFE.

IT WAS UNBEARABLY HARD FOR ME NOT TO BE ABLE TO BE WITH HER IN HER MOMENT OF NEED.

I SHOULD HAVE BEEN WITH HER. IF I'D BEEN THERE, SHE WOULD NEVER HAVE FALLEN INTO THE HANDS OF THE ENEMY!
IT'S ALL THE KING'S FAULT ...
...THAT JOAN WAS CAP-TURED AND BURNED!!
AND STILL ...
HE STILL EXPLOITS HER...
...WITH THIS?

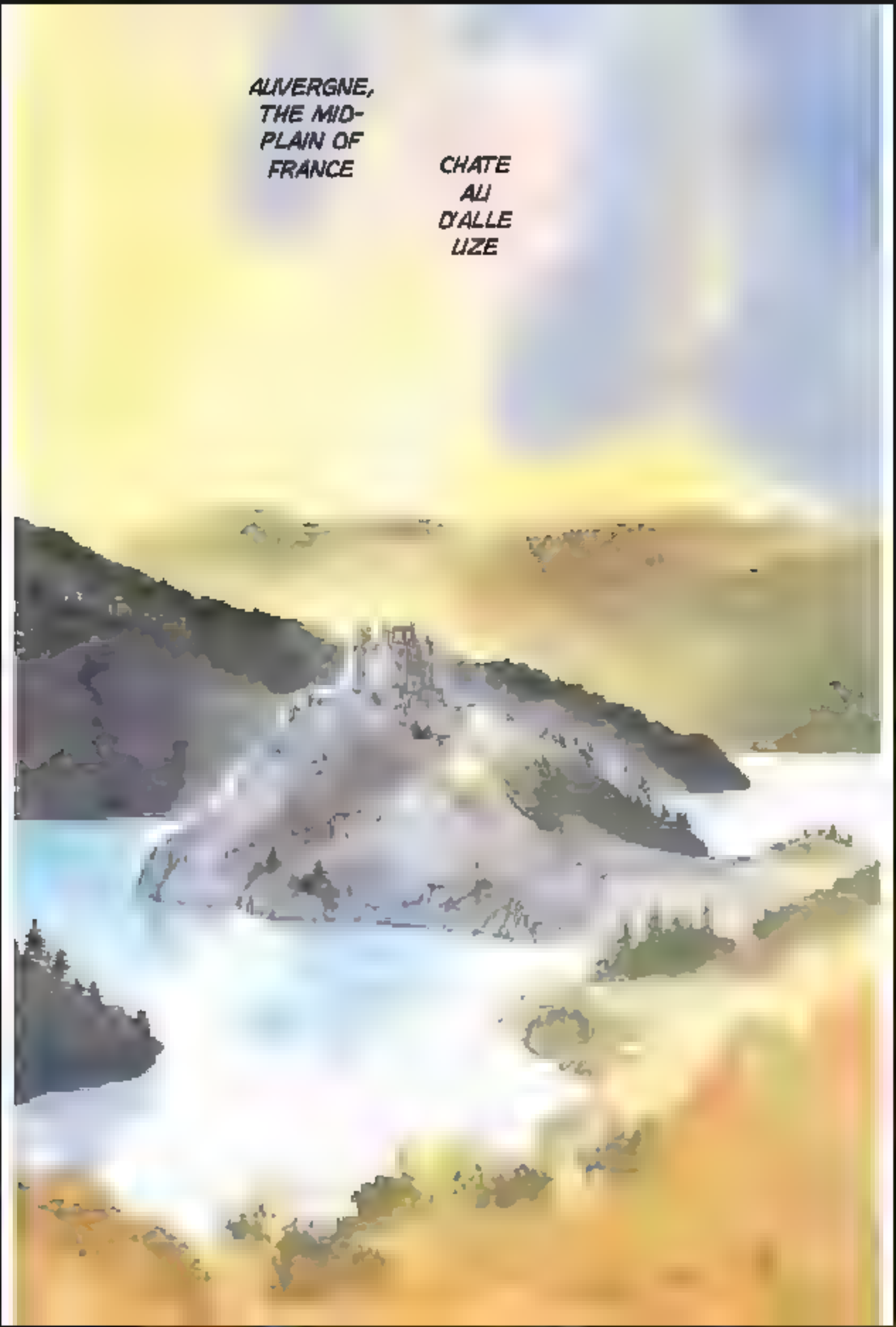
WHAT ARE YOU DOING ?

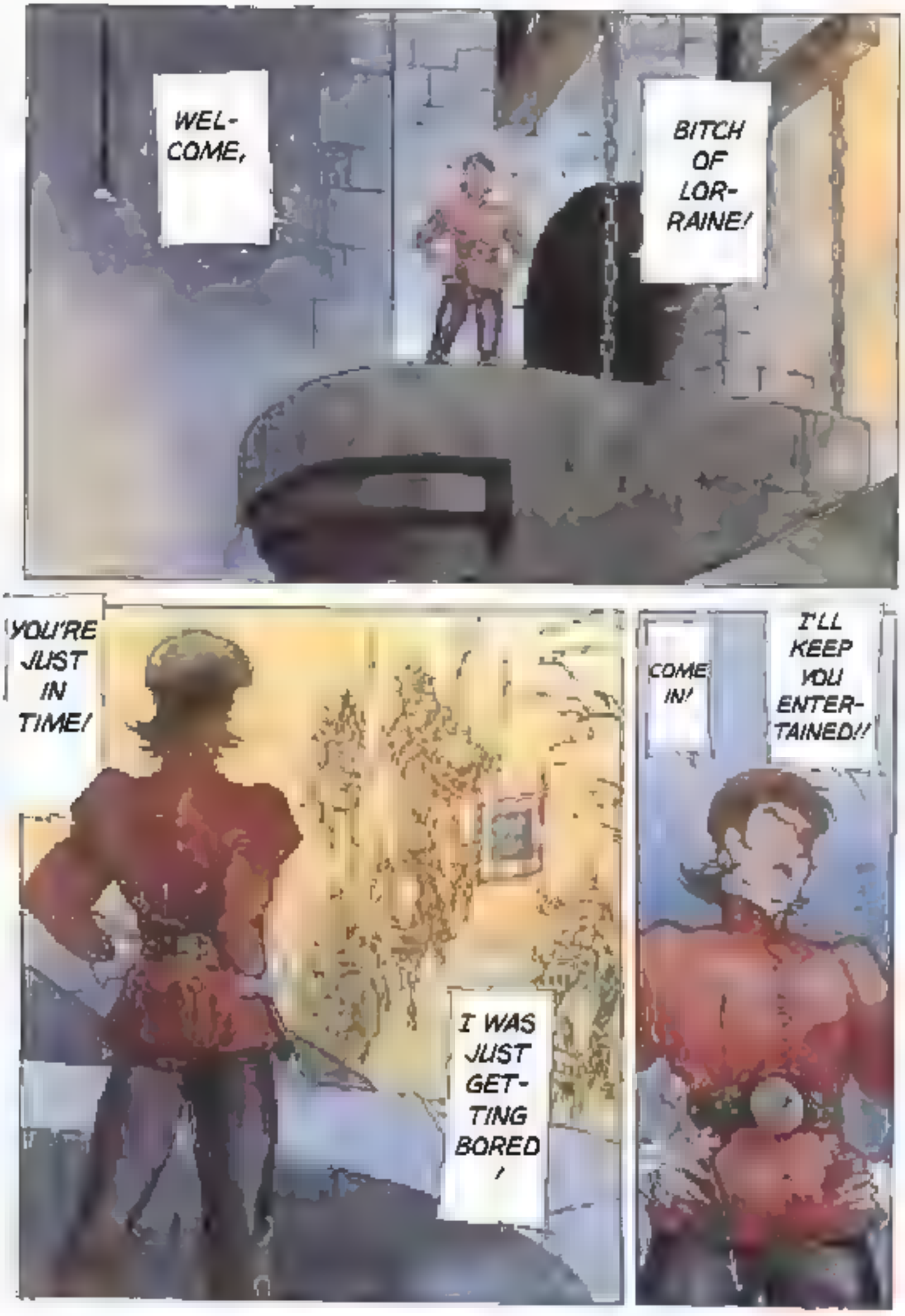
DON'T TAKE IT AS COMPAS-SION THAT I HAVEN'T KILLED YOU.
I JUST DON'T WANT TO GET MY TENT BLOODY.
YOU'RE A STUPID PUPPET OF THE KING, AND YOU HAVE DEFAMED JOAN.
I'M NOT KIND ENOUGH TO CALL YOU NAIVE.
YOU'LL HAVE TO ATONE FOR YOUR SINS.

NO! THAT'S NOT TRUE!
DUKE!
TAKE HER!!
DUKE!!

Chapter 3

MARGUERITE


AUVERGNE, THE MID-PLAIN OF FRANCE
CHATE AU D'ALLE UZE


WEL-
COME,
BITCH
OF
LOR-
RAINE!
YOU'RE
JUST
IN
TIME!
I WAS
JUST
GET-
TING
BORED
!
COME
IN!
I'LL
KEEP
YOU
ENTER-
TAINED!!

TRUE TO FORM,
ALENCON IS SMART ENOUGH TO SEND YOU HERE.
THIS IS HIS BEST GIFT.
WE'RE IN THE MIDDLE OF THE MOUN-TAINS
THERE IS NO FUN HERE AT ALL.

BUT AUVERGNE IS A GOOD PLACE.
THERE ARE NO ANNOYING WOMEN, AND THE KING'S POWER WON'T REACH HERE.

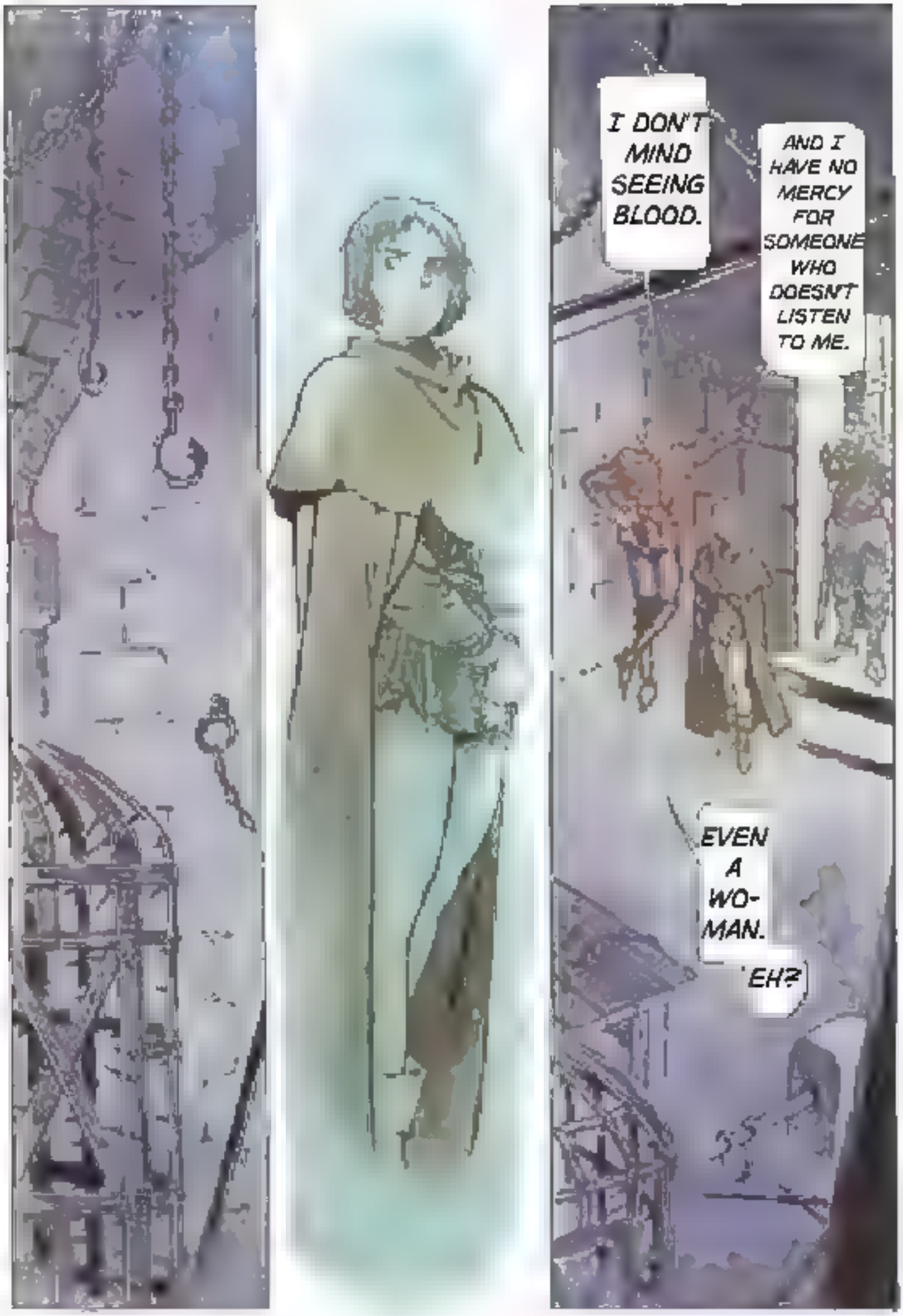
IT'S CLOSE TO BURG-UNDY.
TO THE SOUTH IS ARMA NAC.
TO THE WEST, GUI-ENNE.

I CAN SEE WHAT'S GOING ON IN THE WORLD BELOW.
I FEEL LIKE I'M IN GOD'S OWN SEAT.
SO ... OUTSIDE ...
THE SILLINESS GOES ON, NO?
AH, I'M SICK OF IT.
THE USELESS KING AND HIS PEONS.
WOMAN!!
YOUR NAME IS EMIL, ISN'T IT?

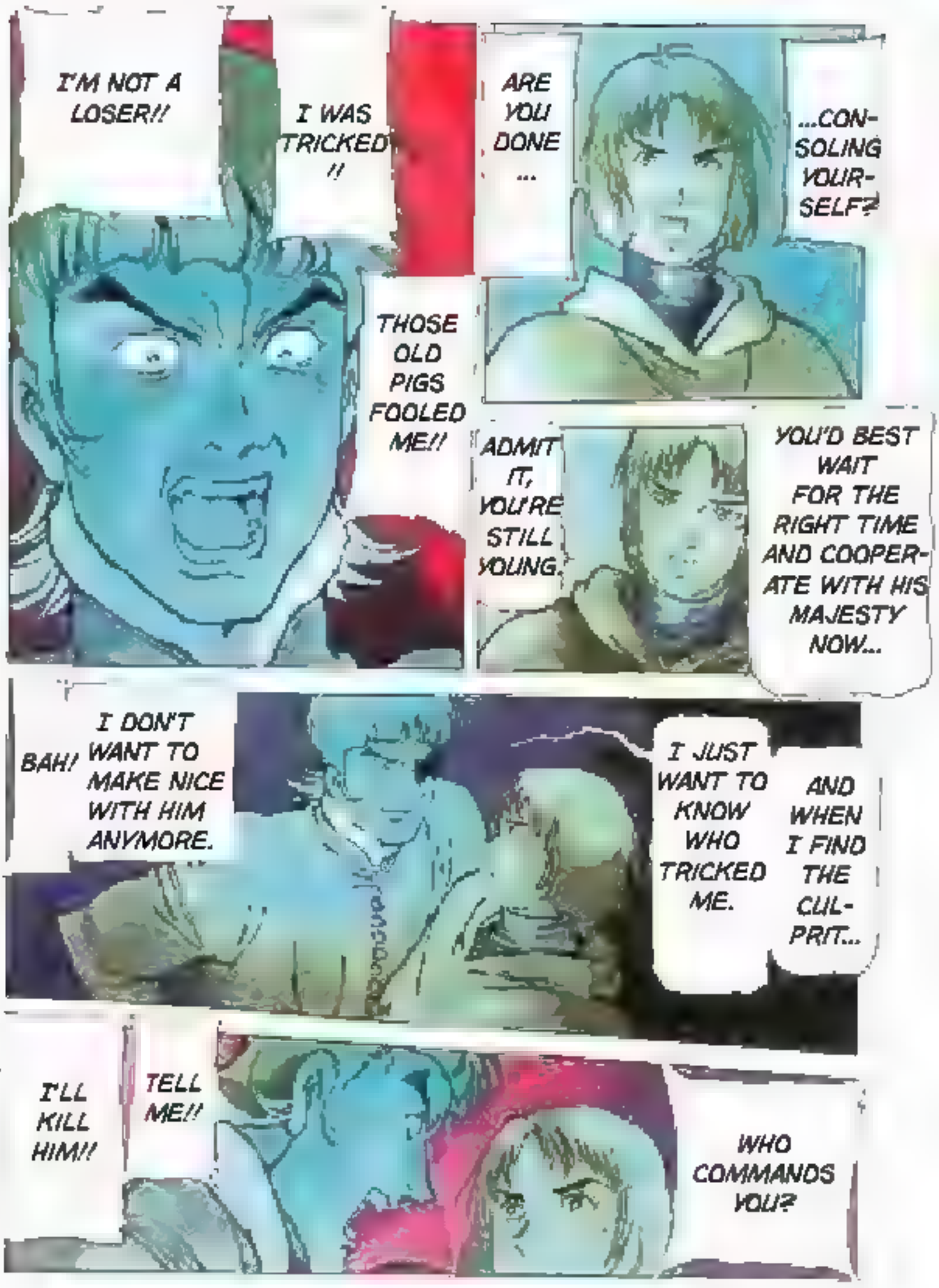
WHO TOLD YOU TO PRE-TEND TO BE JOAN?
RICHE-MONT ?
RENE D'AN-JOU,
AHA !
BALIORI COURT WAS ONCE HIS MAN.
NO WAIT,
HE SENT YOU TO MY FATHER !!
N O.
H M.
YOU FEIGN INNO-CENCE ?
DO YOU WANT TO GET HURT...
...BECAUSE YOU WERE FRIENDLY WITH THOSE BASTARDS?

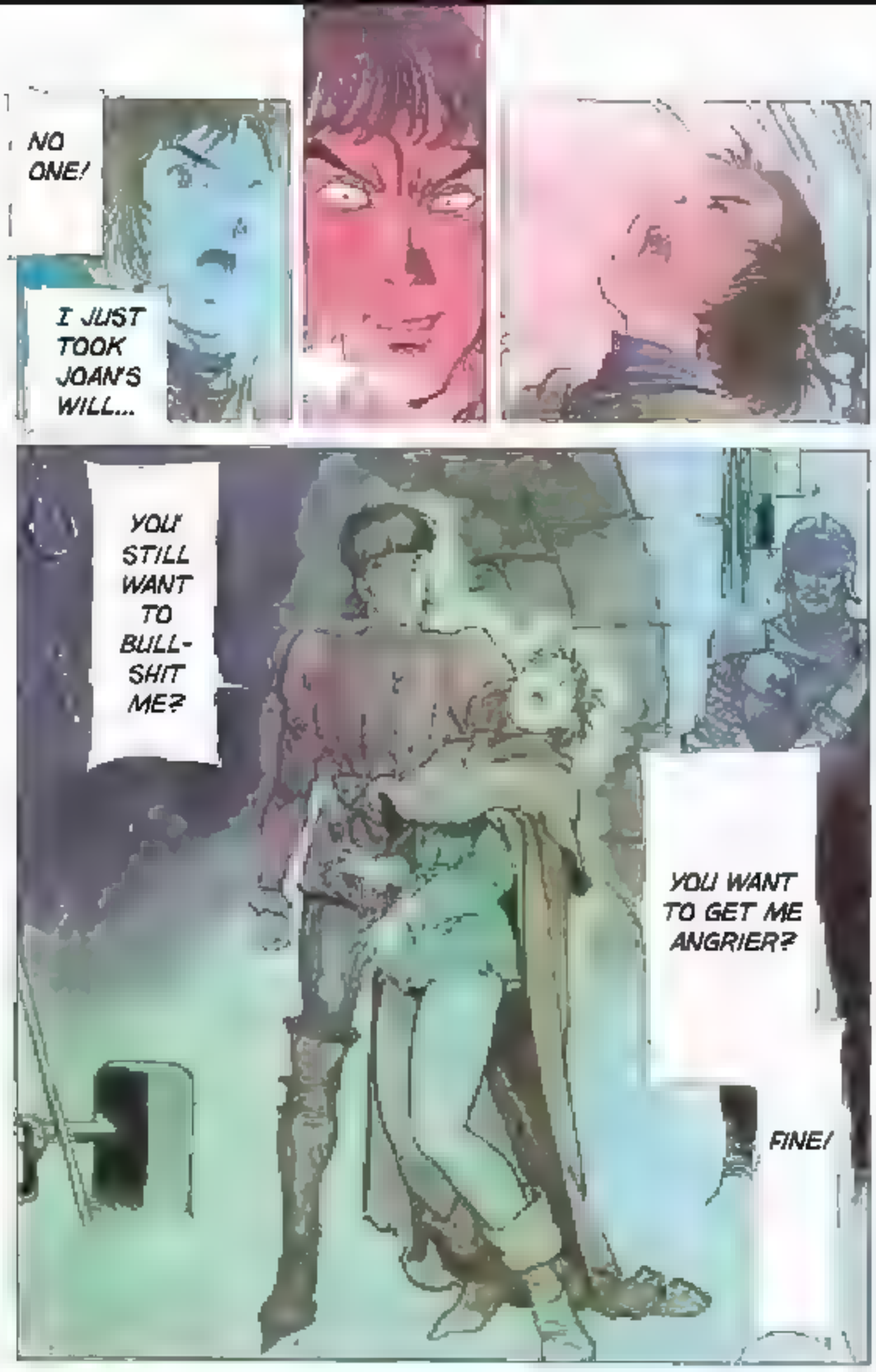
...
WELL, WHAT DO YOU WANT TO KNOW?
I'VE BEEN EMIL FROM THE BEGIN-NING.
I'VE NEVER CALLED MYSELF JOAN.
TRUE, THAT.
BUT YOU WENT INTO BATTLE AS A MAN EVEN THOUGH YOU'RE A WOMAN.
AND WITH JOAN'S FLAG.
YOU WERE FORCED TO PLAY JOAN
TO SCARE AND CON-FUSE US!
THAT'S NOT WHAT YOU SAID!
YOU TOLD ME BEFORE
THAT YOU COULD TAKE JOAN BACK FROM THE ENGLISH.
SLAP
WHY WERE YOU SCARED OF JOAN'S FLAG?
BECAUSE YOU FELT GUILTY FOR BETRAY-ING IT!!

SHUT YOUR MOUTH!!
YOU FALSE JOAN!
WHO'D FEAR YOU?
YOU'RE JUST A PUPPET. DON'T BE SILLY!!
I'LL SHUT YOUR MOUTH SOON.
YOU'LL REG-RET THIS.
STAND UP!!


I DON'T MIND SEEING BLOOD.
AND I HAVE NO MERCY FOR SOMEONE WHO DOESN'T LISTEN TO ME.
EVEN A WO-MAN.
EH?

DAUPHIN.
YOU'VE KILLED ENOUGH PEOPLE.
ALL BECAUSE YOU CAN'T WAIT FOR THAT CROWN TO SIT ON YOUR HEAD.
THOSE YOU KILLED IN LOCHE MIGHT ONE DAY HAVE BECOME YOUR FAITHFUL FOLLOWERS.
AND YOU LOST. FOR SHAME!!
IF YOU'RE A REAL MAN, GO TO HIS MAJESTY,
AND ASK DUKE OF ALENCON IN ST. MAXENT TO SURRENDER!!
FUH ... TEE-HEE-HEE
BULL SHIT.
WHO DO YOU THINK YOU ARE, PRISONER?

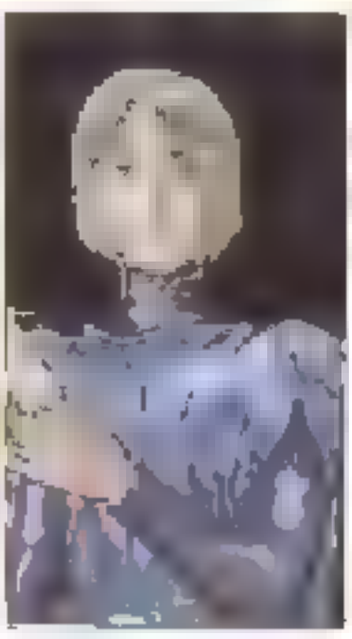

I'M NOT A LOSER!!
I WAS TRICKED !!
THOSE OLD PIGS FOOLED ME!!
ARE YOU DONE ...
...CONSOLING YOURSELF?
ADMIT IT, YOU'RE STILL YOUNG.
YOU'D BEST WAIT FOR THE RIGHT TIME AND COOPERATE WITH HIS MAJESTY NOW...
BAH!
I DON'T WANT TO MAKE NICE WITH HIM ANYMORE.
I JUST WANT TO KNOW WHO TRICKED ME.
AND WHEN I FIND THE CULPRIT...
I'LL KILL HIM!!
TELL ME!!
WHO COMMANDS YOU?

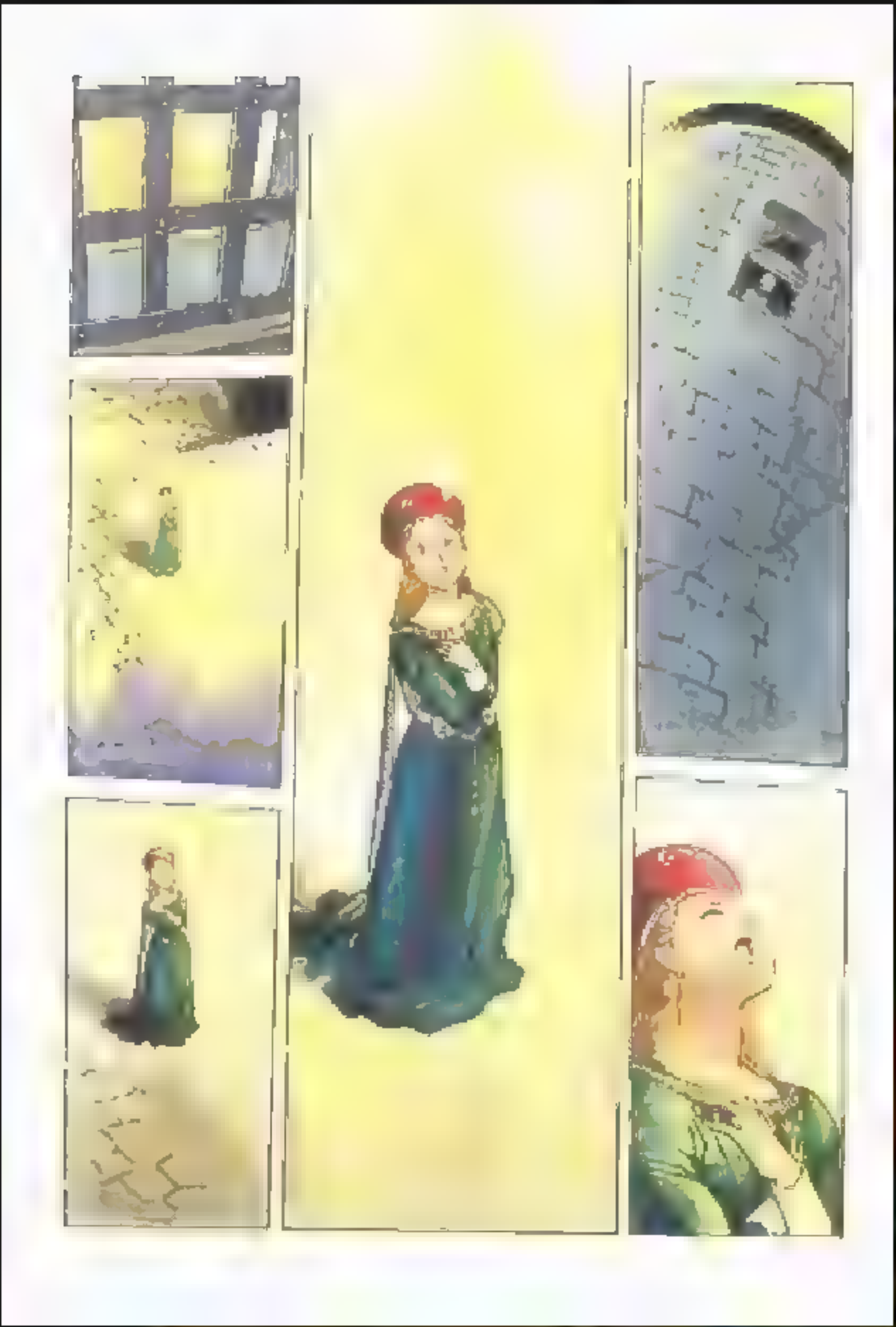

NO ONE!
I JUST TOOK JOAN'S WILL...
YOU STILL WANT TO BULL-SHIT ME?
YOU WANT TO GET ME ANGRIER?
FINE!

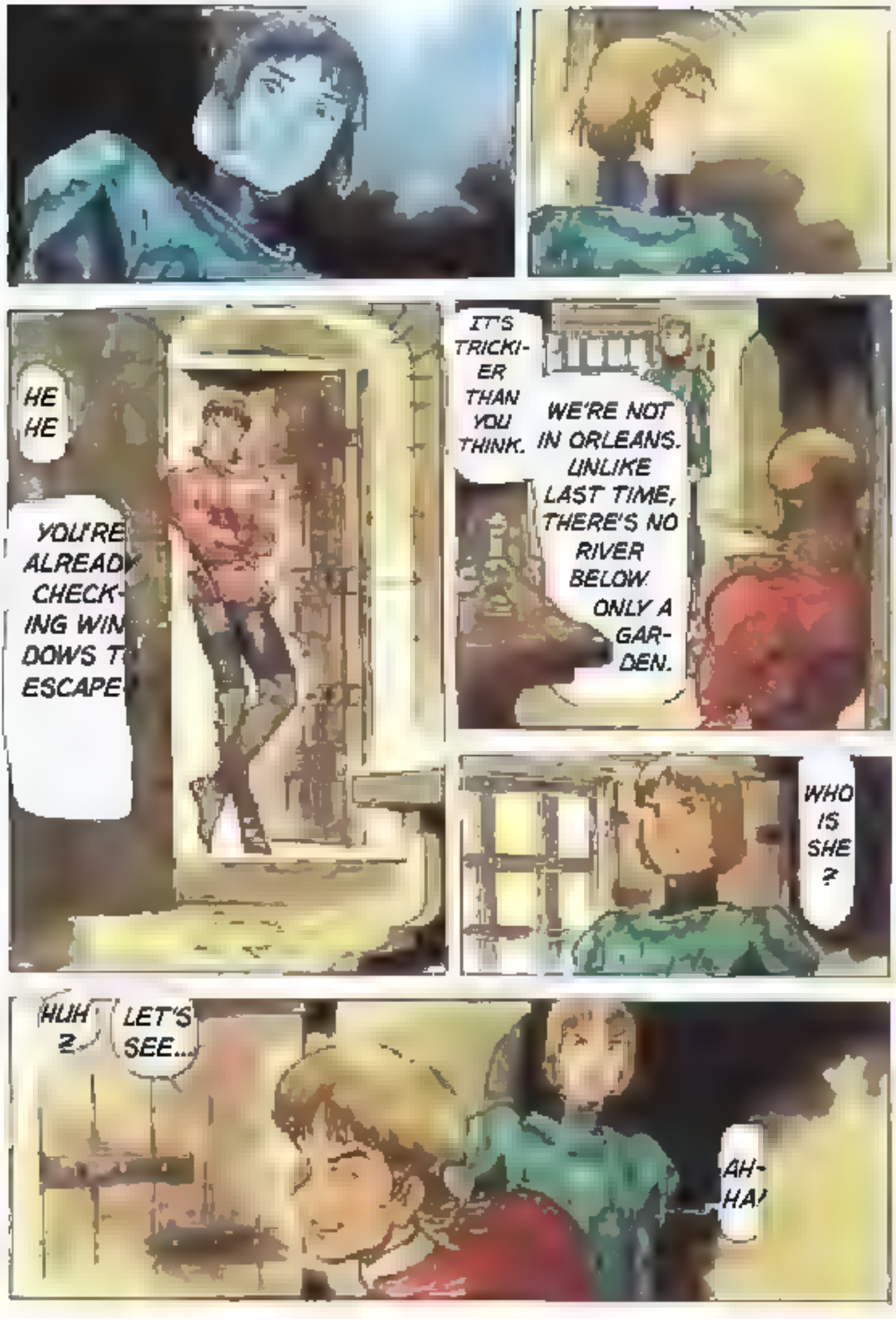
TORTURE IS SATAN'S PRACTICE, YOU KNOW!
EVEN THE INSPEC-TORS WHO KILLED JOAN FOR THE ENGLISH...
WEREN'T SO CRUEL.
BUT YOU ...
FOR YOU I'LL DO IT.
I'LL TOR-TURE YOU LIKE ONE OF SATAN'S OWN.
MAR GAR ET?

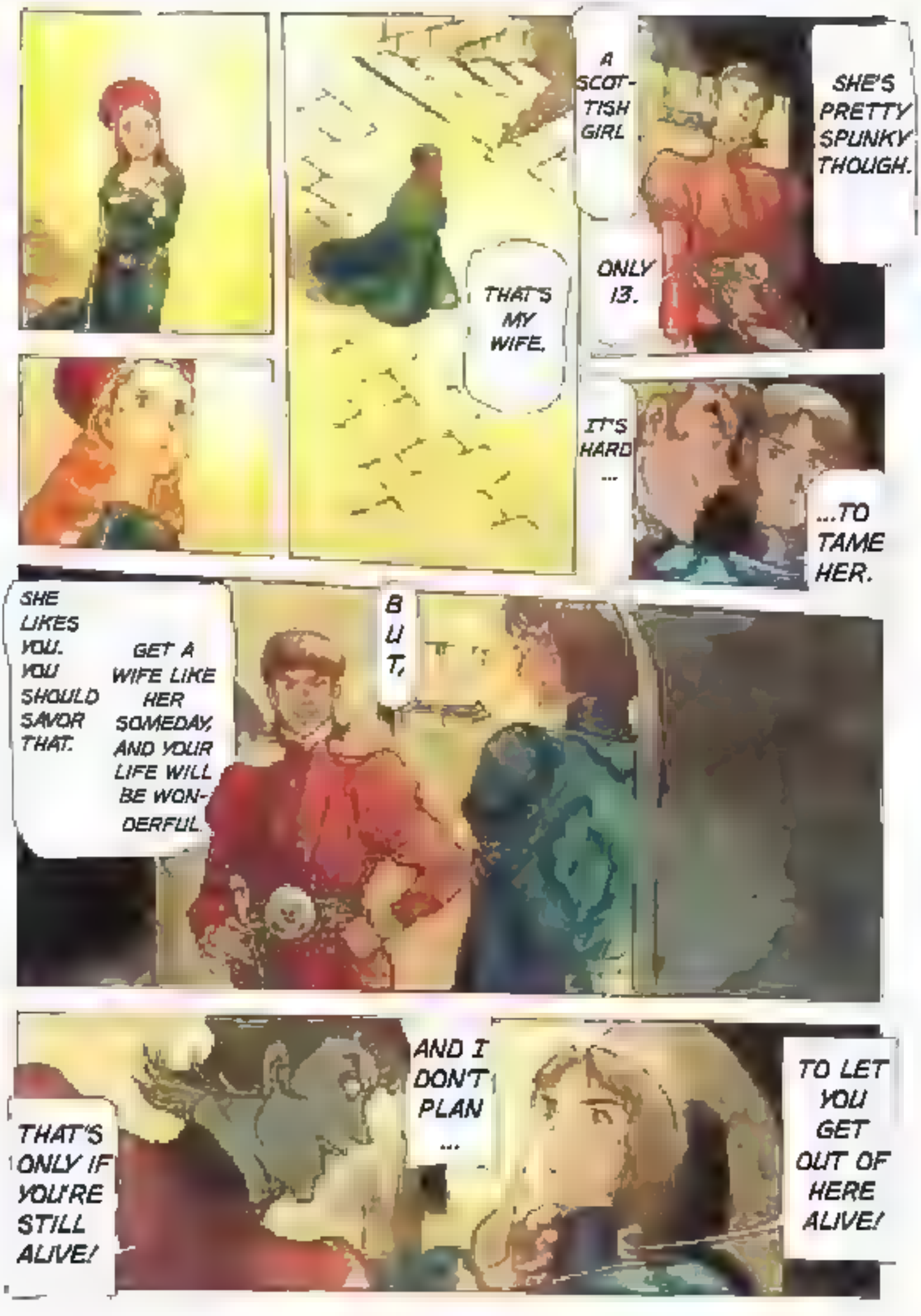
MAR GAR ET
WHAT'RE YOU DOING HERE?
MAR GAR ET?
WHAT ARE YOU DOING
TO HIM?
..
WELL, WHAT ?
UM...
NOTH-ING, REAL-LY...
EH !
MAR GAR ET!
DON'T TELL MEN WHAT TO DO!!
GO TO YOUR ROOM !

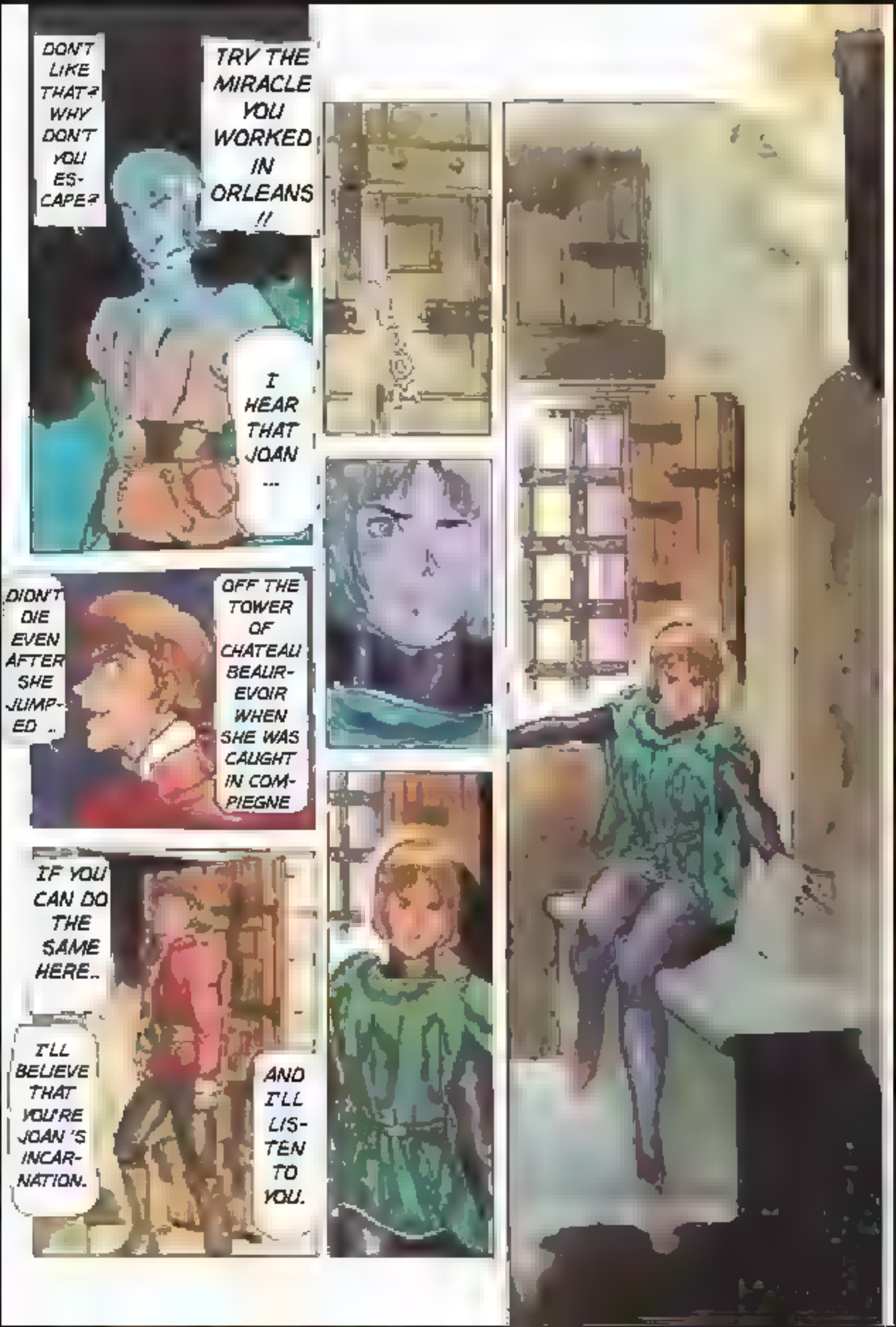
HUF
HUF
LET HIM GO!
AND
CHANGE HIS CLOTHES!
HIS ROOM IS IN THE WEST TOWER
GOOD FOR YOU.
EH?
YOU HAVE NOT RUN OUT OF LUCK YET
BE THANK-FUL
FOR MAR-GARET'S KIND HEART!!

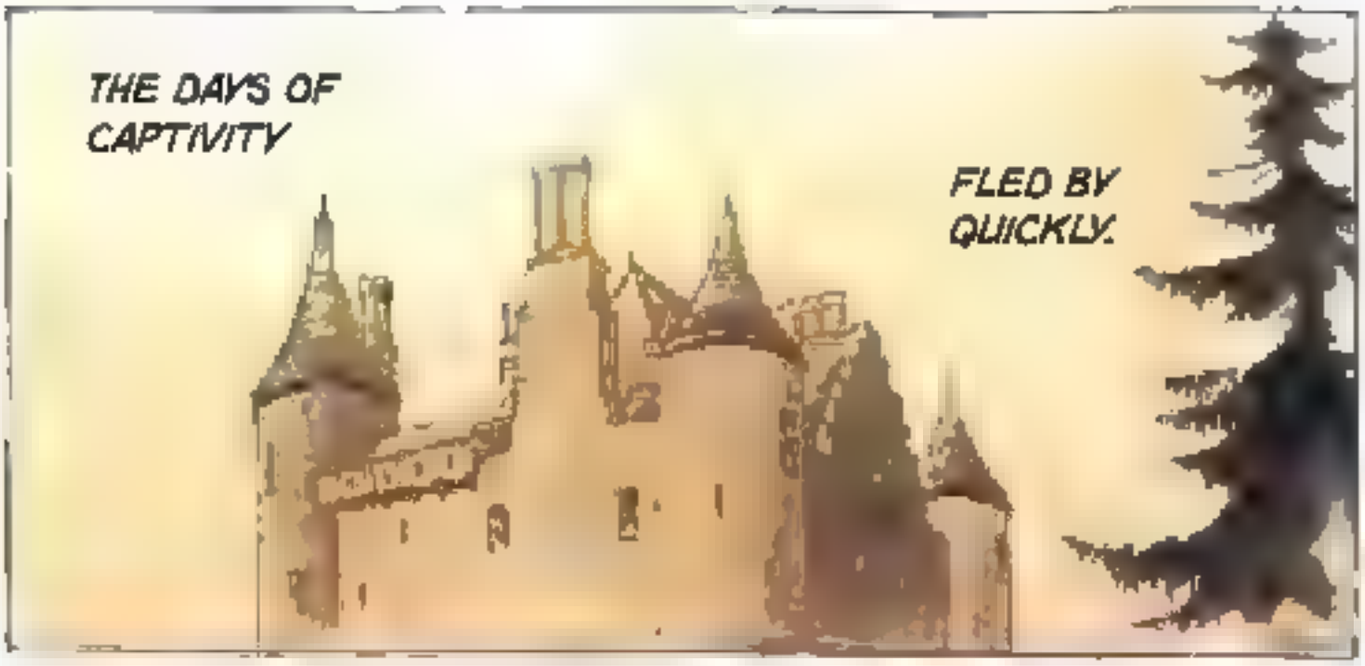





HE HE
YOU'RE ALREADY CHECKING WINDOWS TO ESCAPE
IT'S TRICKIER THAN YOU THINK.
WE'RE NOT IN ORLEANS. UNLIKE LAST TIME, THERE'S NO RIVER BELOW. ONLY A GARDEN.
WHO IS SHE?
HUH?
LET'S SEE...
AH-HA!


A SCOT-TISH GIRL
SHE'S PRETTY SPUNKY THOUGH.
ONLY 13.
THAT'S MY WIFE.
IT'S HARD ...
...TO TAME HER.
SHE LIKES YOU. YOU SHOULD SAVOR THAT.
GET A WIFE LIKE HER SOMEDAY, AND YOUR LIFE WILL BE WON-DERFUL.
BUT,
THAT'S ONLY IF YOU'RE STILL ALIVE!
AND I DON'T PLAN ...
TO LET YOU GET OUT OF HERE ALIVE!


DON'T LIKE THAT? WHY DON'T YOU ES-CAPE?
TRY THE MIRACLE YOU WORKED IN ORLEANS !!
I HEAR THAT JOAN ...
DIDN'T DIE EVEN AFTER SHE JUMP-ED ..
OFF THE TOWER OF CHATEAU BEAUR-EVOIR WHEN SHE WAS CAUGHT IN COM-PIEGNE
IF YOU CAN DO THE SAME HERE..
I'LL BELIEVE THAT YOU'RE JOAN 'S INCAR-NATION.
AND I'LL LIS-TEN TO YOU.


THE DAYS OF CAPTIVITY
FLED BY QUICKLY.

THE SUN-LIGHT IN THE COURTYARD
CHANGED ITS COLORS FROM SPRING TO EARLY SUMMER.

I WAS STILL IN THE WALLS.

LIFE LIKE BEING AT THE BOT-TOM OF A DEEP TANK.
THE ONLY OCCA-SIONAL VISIT WAS

MARA-GARET'S SMILE, LOOKING UP AT THE TOWER FROM THE COURT-YARD.

BUT IT WAS A FRAGILE AND SAD SMILE.

A SMILE FROM OUT-SIDE .

SMILE THAT I CAN'T RESPOND TO.

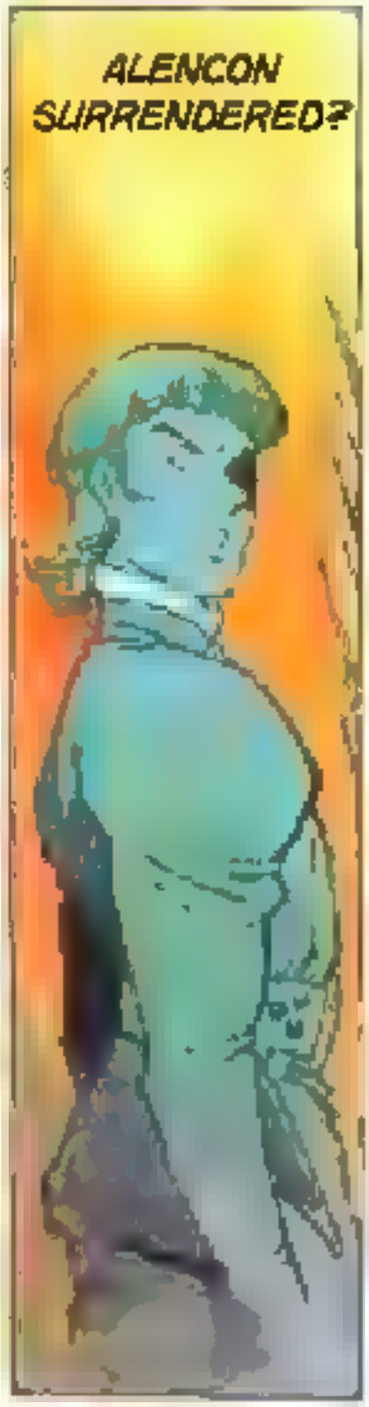
IT WAS PAINFUL FOR ME.

THE DAYS WITH HER SMILE'S SMALL COMFORT

WERE JUST LIKE TORTURE FROM LEWIS.

GALLOP

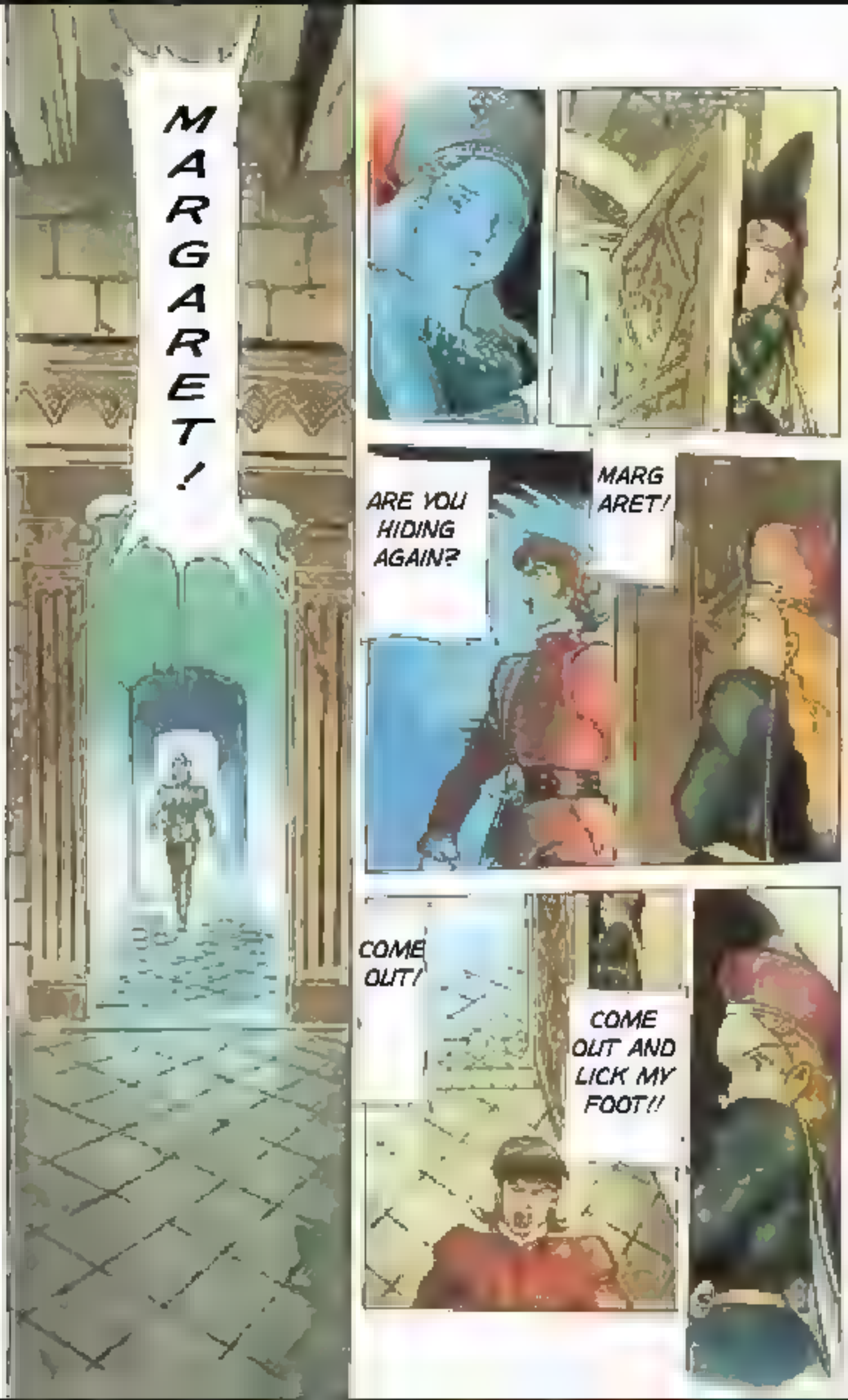
GALLOP

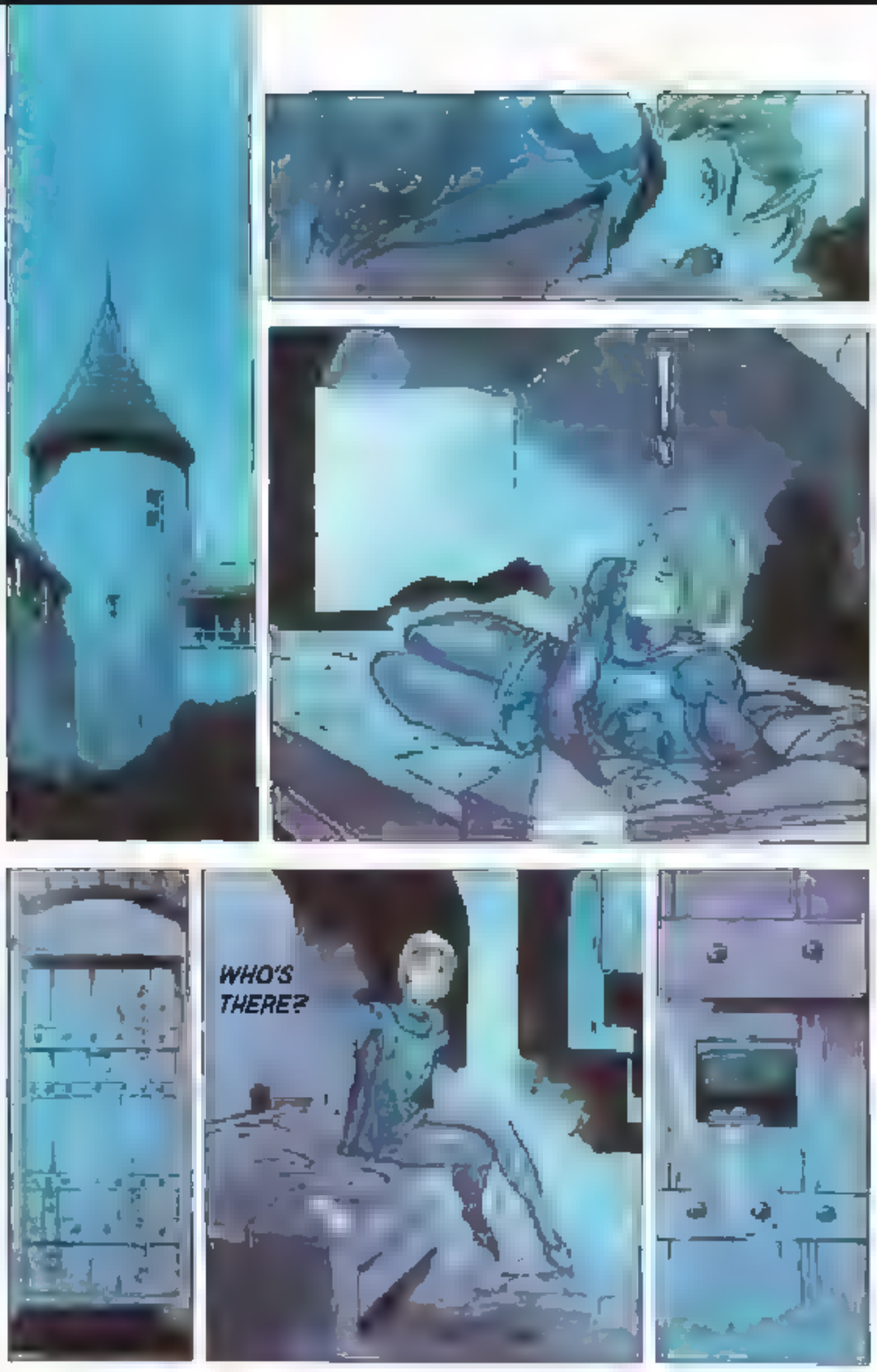

ALENCON SURRENDERED?

Y E S.
HIS ARMY WAS FIGHT-ING-WELL BUT
THEY WERE ENCLOSED BY RICHEMONT AND RAN OUT OF FOOD. AND EVEN THOUGH THEY ALMOST BEAT THE SOLDIERS IN THE CASTLE,
THEY WERE ATTACKED FROM BOTH INSIDE AND OUTSIDE ...

WHAT A LOSER.
IS THAT IT, ALENCON?
BAM!
EXCUSE ME SIR, BUT I TRULY ADMIRE HIS EFFORT.
HE KEPT ON UNTIL NOW WITHOUT ANY SUPPORT!!
I KNOW THAT!
BOURBON, BASTARD, AND LA TREMOILLE WEREN'T GOOD ENOUGH!!
THE-DUKE OF BURGUNDY, PHILIP, THE GOOD* ...
WHY ARE THEY NOT ON MY SIDE?
NOW'S THE TIME TO DEFEAT MY FATHER.

EX-CUSE ME, BUT
SINCE THE PEACE OF ARRAS,* THE DUKE CHOSE
TO HAVE NOTH-ING TO DO WITH THE KING...
WHAT ABOUT THE ENGLISH?!
I'D RATHER SIDE WITH THEM THAN FOLLOW MY FATHER!
THE BRITISH KING AND I ARE RELA-TED, ORIGI-NALLY.
IF THAT DOES-N'T WORK, EITHER, I'LL SIDE WITH SATAN!!
I'LL DO ANY-THING TO WIN!
I WON'T LOSE!
NEVER!

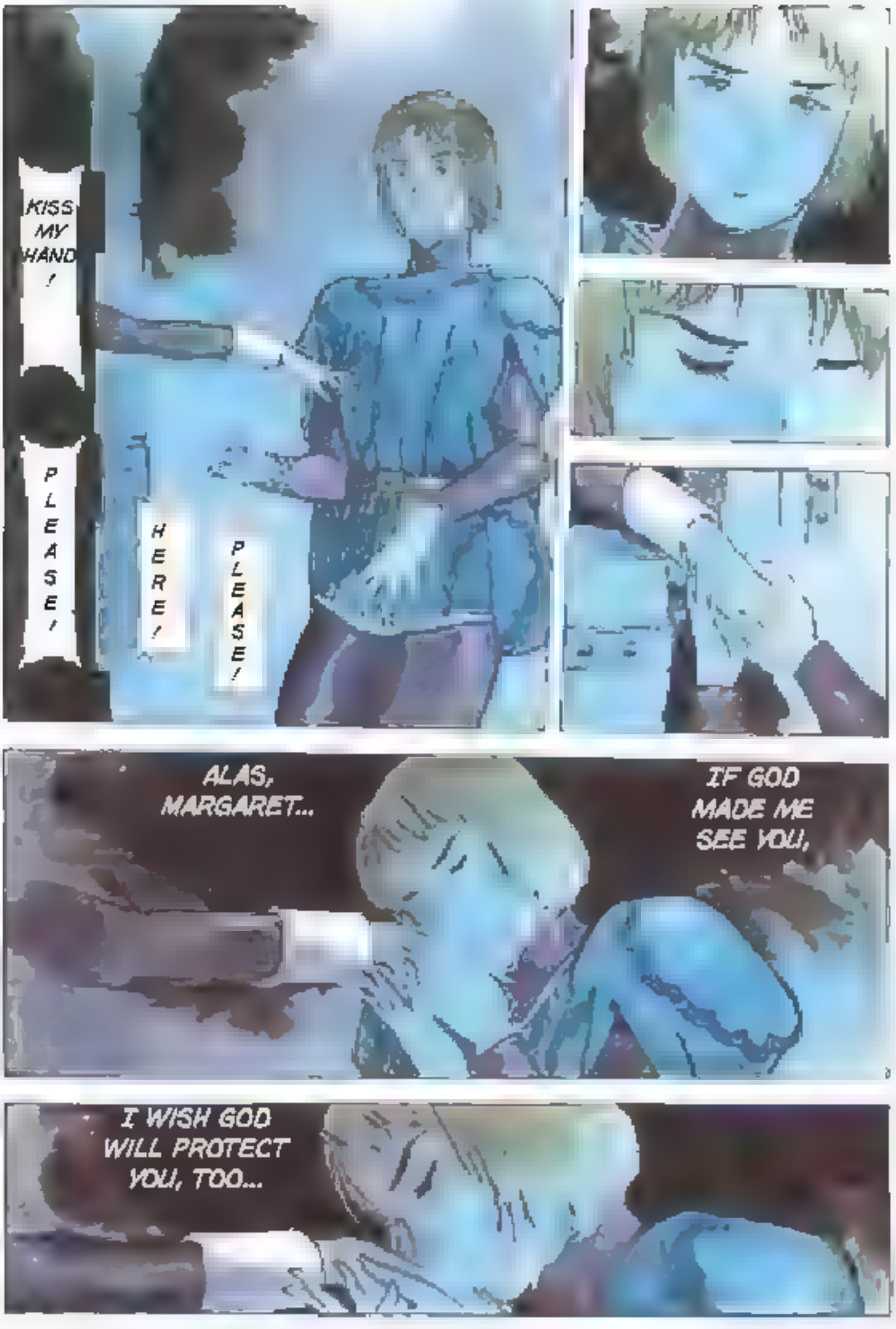

MARGARET!
ARE YOU HIDING AGAIN?
MARG ARET!
COME OUT!
COME OUT AND LICK MY FOOT!!

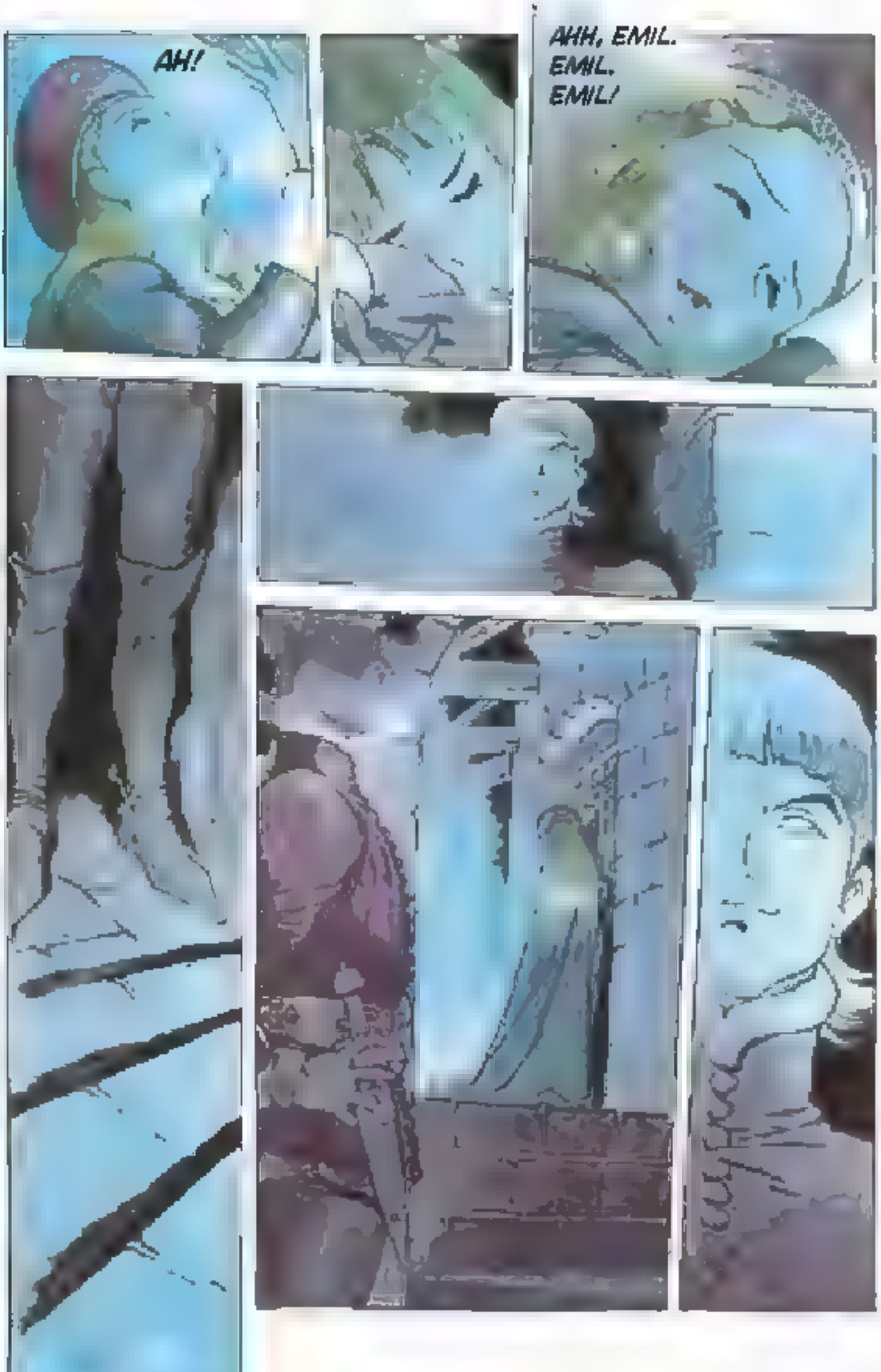

WHO'S THERE?

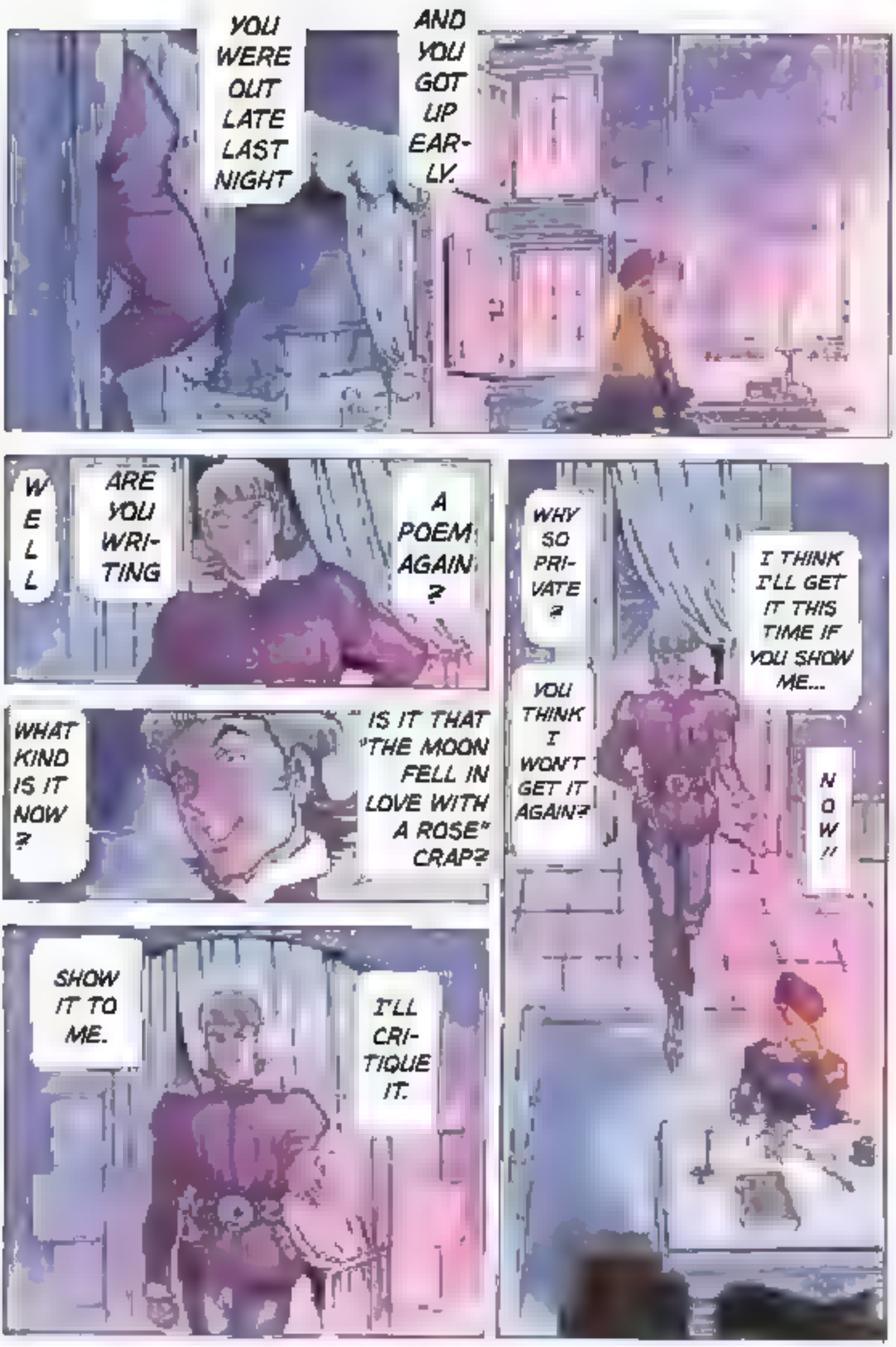
CAN IT BE...
FWUM
MARGARET?
I BEG YOU, GO BACK NOW!
THIS IS NO GOOD, MARGARET.
IF THE DAUPHIN FINDS YOU HERE...
I WANTED TO COME EARLIER
BUT
THE GUARD WOULD NOT LET ME IN.
I FINALLY GOT A CHANCE!
I HAD TO SEE YOU!

LOUIS DOESN'T LOVE ME.
HE JUST USES ME
TO AMUSE HIM, LIKE A PET!
I JUST WANT TO BE LOVED!
I'VE WAIT-ED SO LONG
FOR SOMEONE WHO WOULD LOVE ME!!

EMIL
/
LOVE ME! PLEASE /
PLEASE!
I NEED YOU!
I'LL HELP YOU GET OUT OF HERE!
NOT NOW, BUT
SOME-TIME SOON!
BUT ONLY IF...
...YOU TAKE ME WITH YOU!
I'LL GO ANY-WHERE WITH YOU!
KISS ME!
EMIL!


KISS MY HAND!
PLEASE!
HERE!
PLEASE!
ALAS, MARGARET...
IF GOD MADE ME SEE YOU,
I WISH GOD WILL PROTECT YOU, TOO...

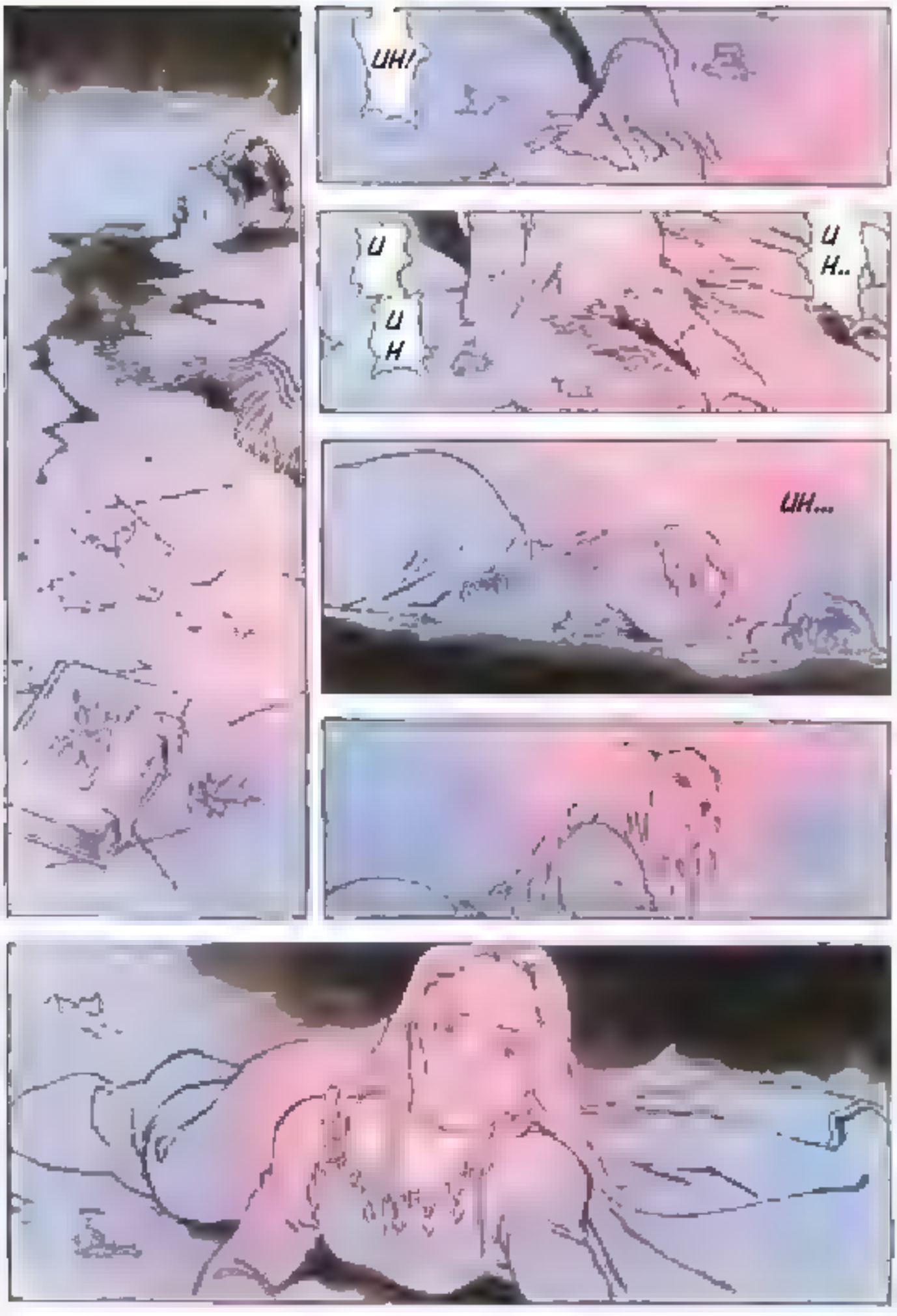

AH!
AHH, EMIL.
EMIL.
EMIL!


YOU WERE OUT LATE LAST NIGHT
AND YOU GOT UP EAR-LY.
WELL
ARE YOU WRI-TING
A POEM AGAIN?
WHAT KIND IS IT NOW?
" IS IT THAT "THE MOON FELL IN LOVE WITH A ROSE" CRAP?
SHOW IT TO ME.
I'LL CRI-TIQUE IT.
WHY SO PRI-VATE?
I THINK I'LL GET IT THIS TIME IF YOU SHOW ME...
YOU THINK I WON'T GET IT AGAIN?
NOW!!

I SAID
SHOW ME!!
NO!!
SHOW IT TO ME!
NO!
I'LL EAT IT...
RATH-ER THAN
SHOW IT TO YOU!!

SHUT
THE
HELL
UP!!

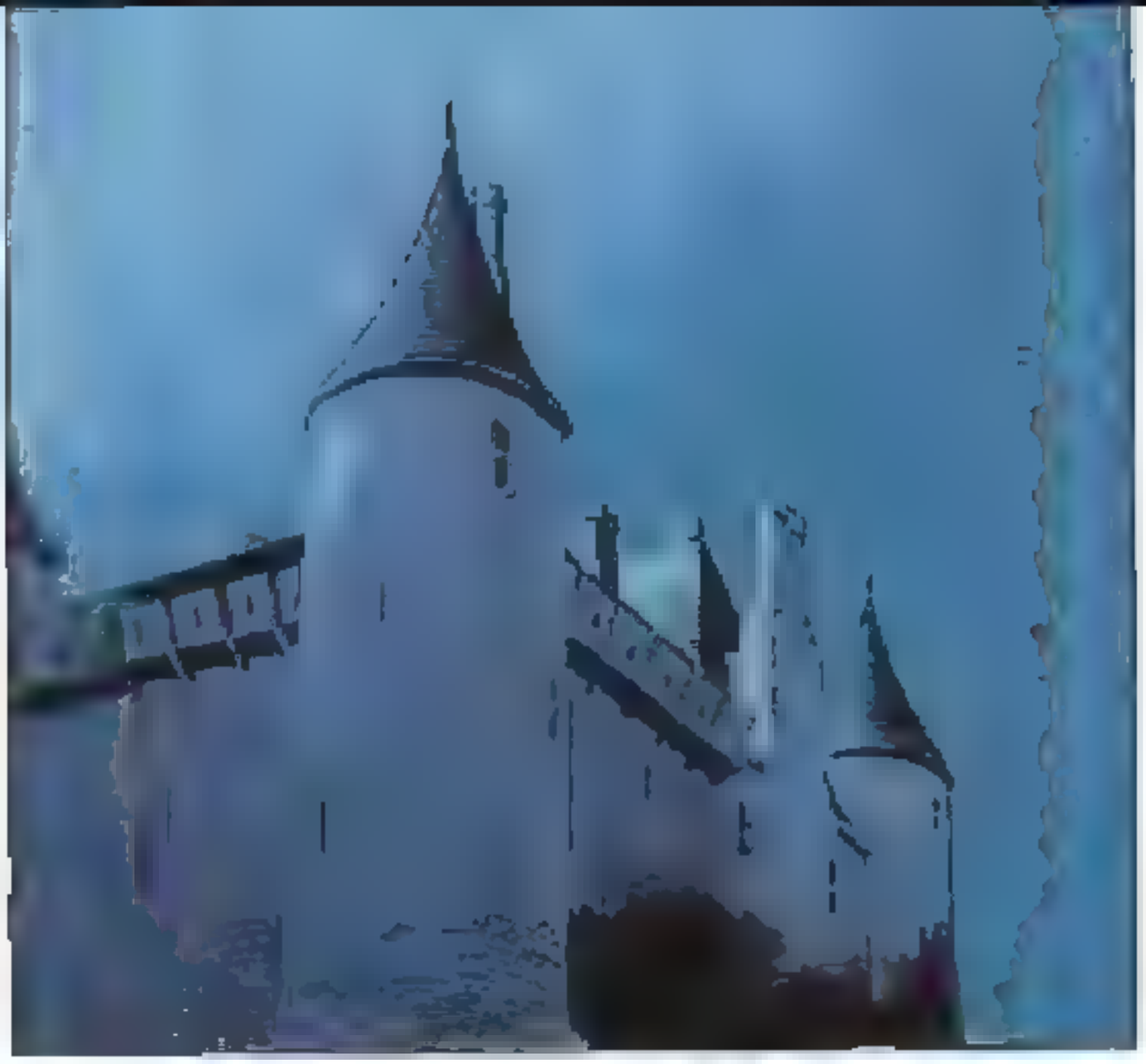
THOUGHT
HEARD
EONE'S
OICE...
WHAT
WAS
THAT
?

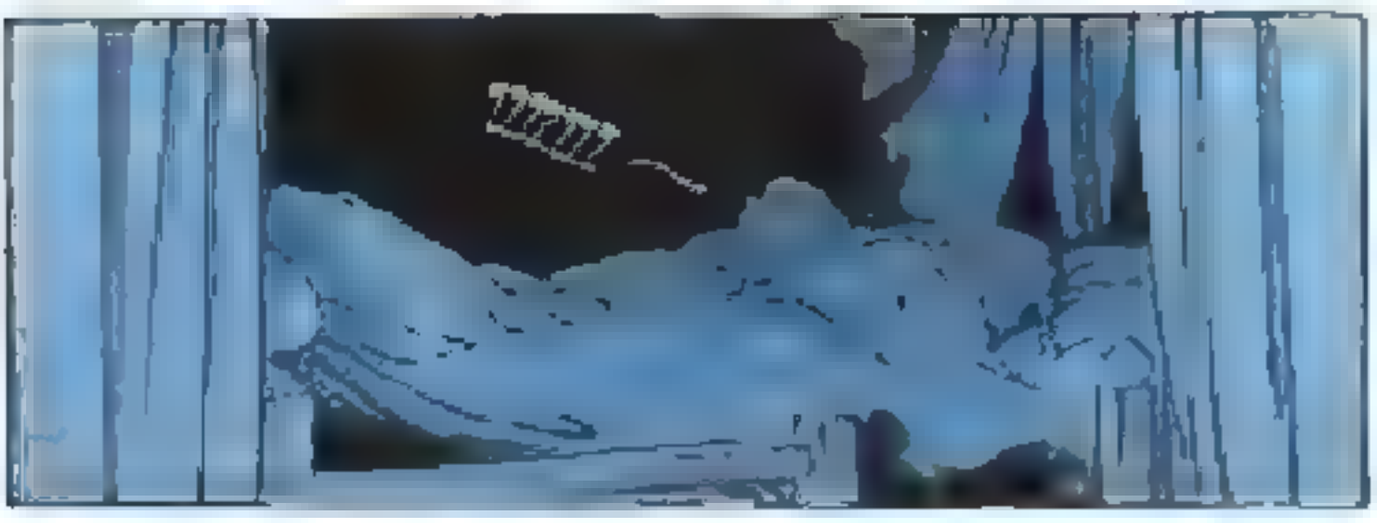

UH!
U
U
H
U
H..
UH...

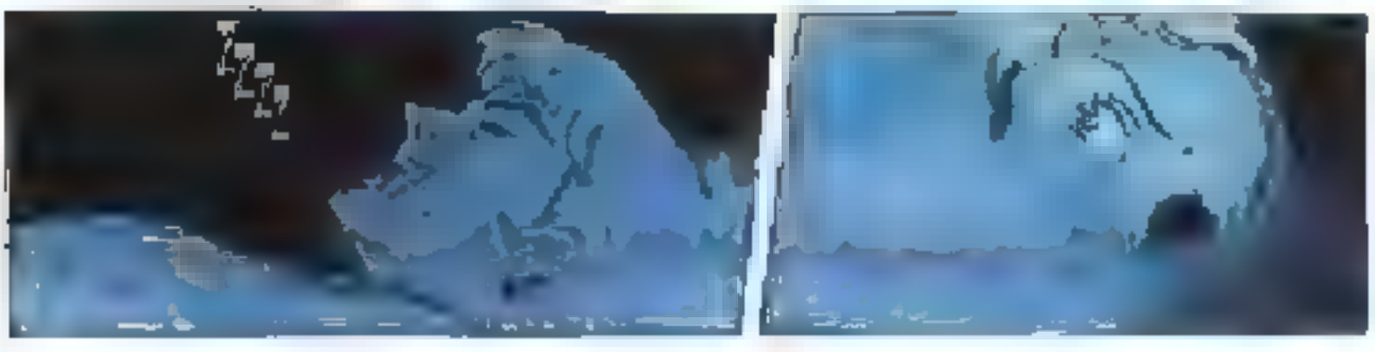
Chapter 4

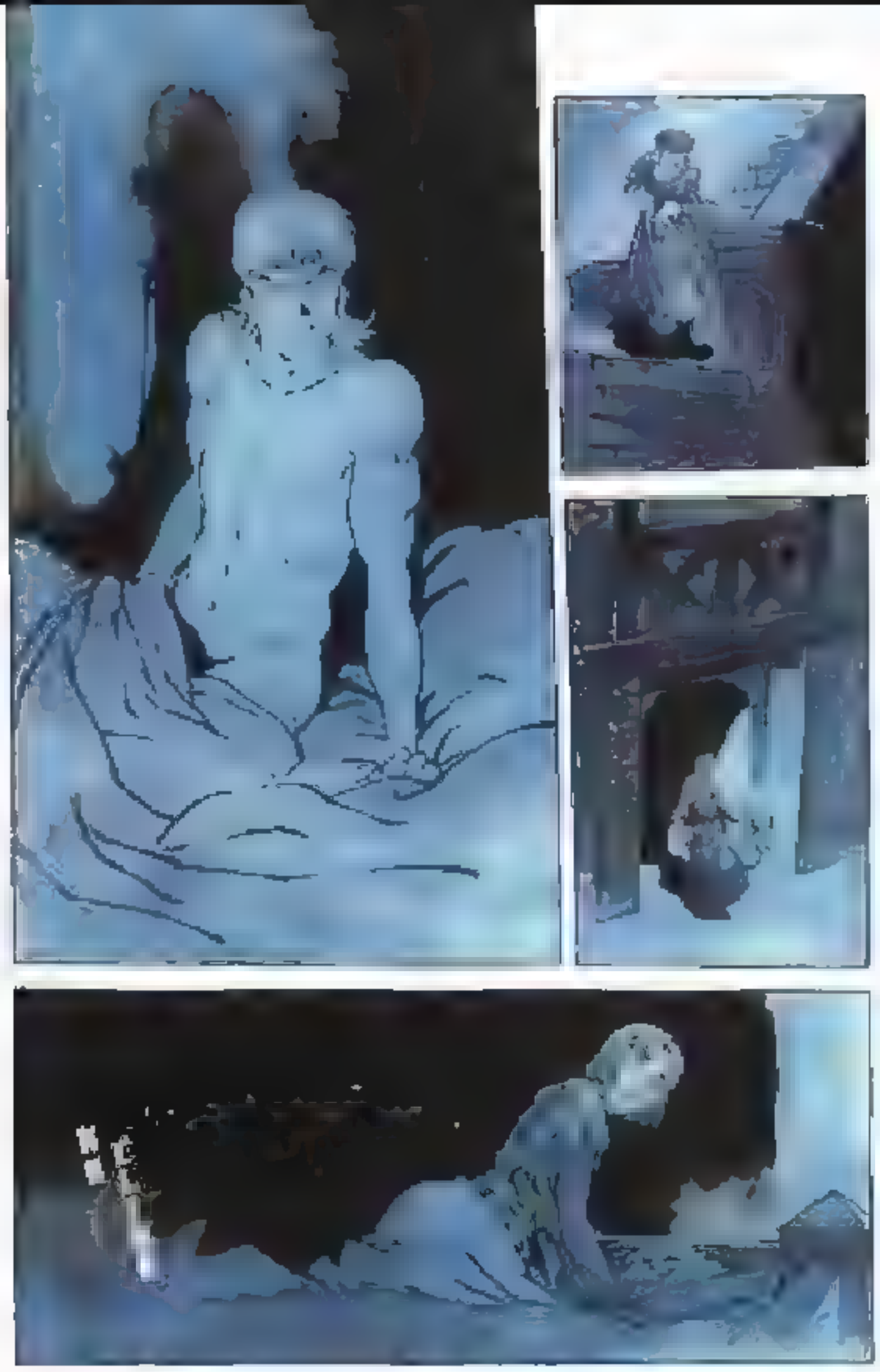
FEU DE LA PUCELLE

Joan's Fire









MARGARET?!
VRRRN
EMIL
..
EMIL!

ALAS, EMIL! MY EMIL!
I KNEW YOU'RE THE ONE
I'VE BEEN WAIT-ING FOR!!
YOU'RE THE SHINING KNIGHT WHO CAN HELP ME OUT OF THIS DARK BIRD CAGE!!
DO YOU KNOW HOW LONG I'VE BEEN WAITING FOR SOME-ONE LIKE YOU?
AND
HOW HARD IT HAS BEEN TO WAIT FOR THIS MOMENT?
I DREAMED OF YOU SO MANY TIMES
HELPING ME OUT AND ESCAPING TOGETHER!!

NO, MARG ARET.
YOU CAN'T ESCAPE WITH SOME- ONE LIKE ME.

YOU'RE THE WIFE OF THE MANWHO WILL SOME- DAY TAKE THE THRONE.
DO YOU KNOW
WHAT WILL HAPPEN IF YOU FLEE?

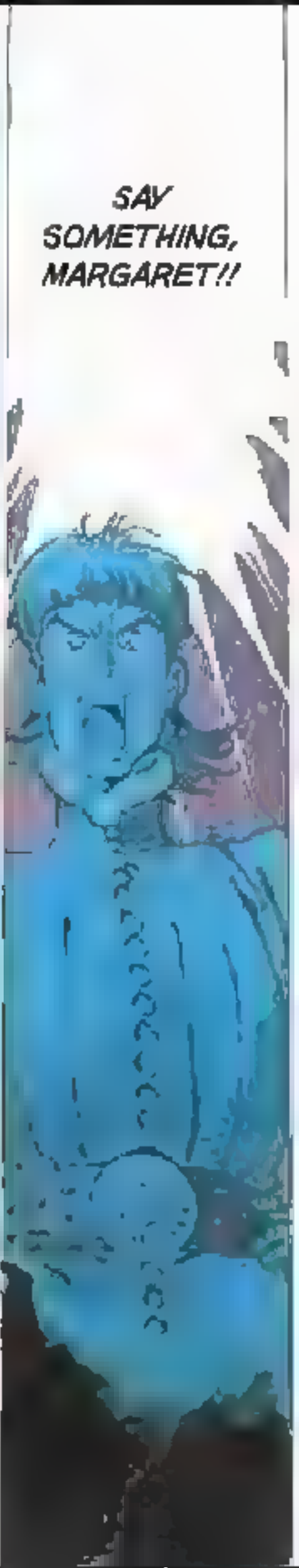
NO!
I DON'T CARE WHAT HAPPENS TO THIS COUNTRY!
THE DAUP- HIN'S WIFE ?
MARRIAGE WITHOUT LOVE IS A FLOWER NECK- LACE MADE OF SAND!!
COME!
THIS WAY !!

KING CHARLES SET UP OUR MAR-RIAGE
JUST TO KEEP SCOT LAND ON HIS SIDE!
BUT I'VE HAD IT!
FROM THE BEGIN-NING, THERE WAS NO LOVE!
I'M JUST AN ORNA-MENT!
IT'S LIKE BEING A PRIS-ONER
I WAS TRICKED AND USED!!
NO GUARDS?
NO ONE? NOWH ERE?
THIS CAN'T BE TRUE!
A TRAP?

WAIT !
SOME-THING'S WRONG!
WE SHOULDN'T GO TODAY!
WHAT DO YOU MEAN?
WE CAN'T GIVE UP NOW!
MARGARET!

WHERE ARE YOU GOING SO EARLY IN THE MORN?
EH, WIFE?

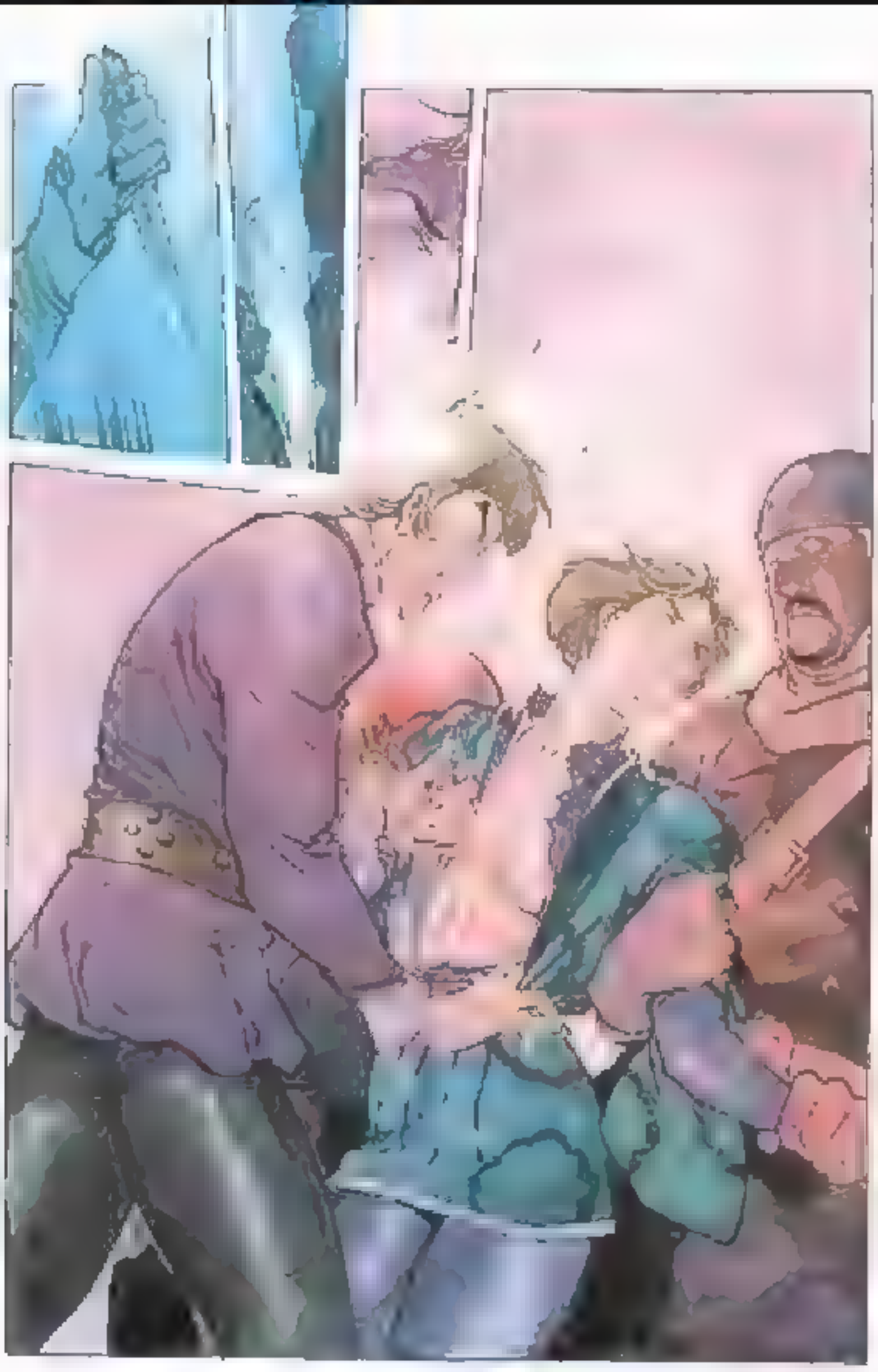
AND WITH COM-PANY?
WHEN DID I ALLOW YOU TO DO THAT?
.....


SAY SOMETHING, MARGARET!!

HM,
THIS IS MY KNIFE ...
I WAS JUST LOOK ING FOR IT...
YOU TOOK IT FROM ME.

EMILI!
FLEE!
CLEVER...
YOU TOOK ADVAN TAGE OF INNO- CENT MARGA RET...

ISN'T THAT RIGHT ?
YES, IT IS.
SO, IT'S NOT HER FAULT.
YES !
HAHA
YOU'RE VERY CUN-NING, WHELP.
FLEE!
STOP CRYING, MARGARET. IT'S NOT YOUR FAULT!
YOU WERE JUST TRICKED !
WATCH !
HE'S THE CAD!
AND A LIAR !!



NOW DO YOU SEE ...
...THE TRUTH ABOUT THIS EMIL?
SHE PRE-TEND-ED TO BE A BOY...
BUT SHE'S JUST AN EVIL BITCH !!
THERE ARE MANY FILTHY DEVIANTS AROUND MY FATHER.
YOU SHOULD REMEM BER THAT!

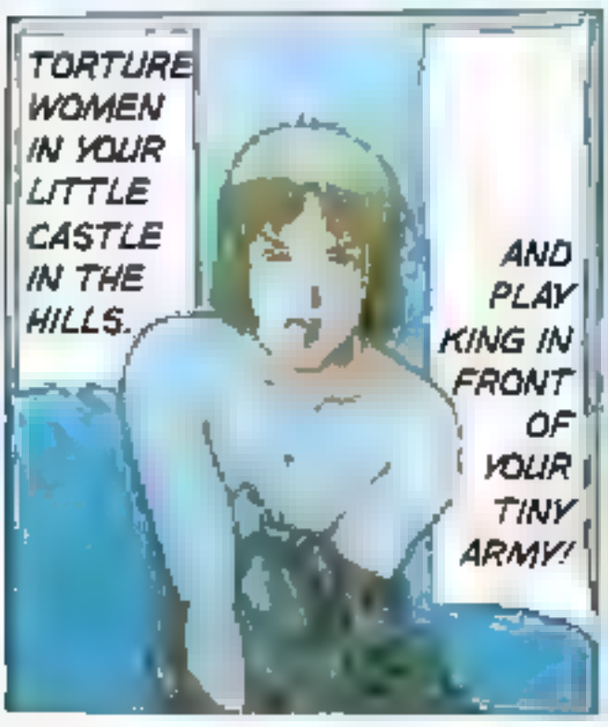
IT SEEMS SHE'S NOT YOUR MAN
TOO BAD ..
WHA
NOOOO!
NO!
IT CAN'T BE!

NOOO!
HA
HA
HA...
YOU'RE
TRULY
CRUEL...

HOW CAN YOU ACT LIKE THIS?
YOU HAVE FUN WATCHING YOUR WIFE IN PAIN?
IT'S TOO CRUEL!
SHE DOESN'T DESERVE THIS!
I'LL NEVER FORGIVE YOU FOR WHAT YOU JUST DID!!
YOU WON'T FOR-GIVE ME?
VERY INTER-ESTING
WHAT WILL YOU DO NOW?
EH ?

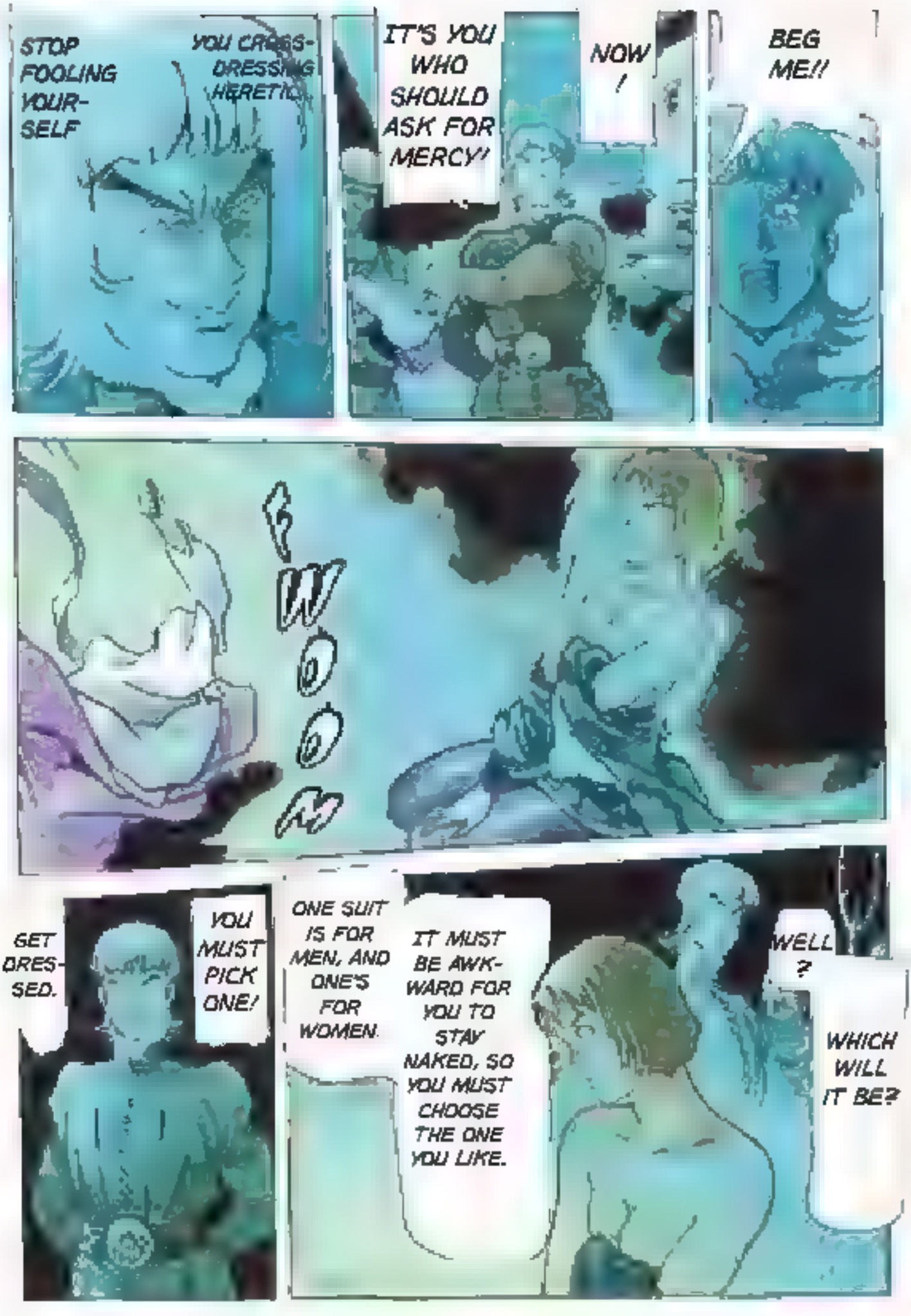
WHAT NOW ?
THINK YOU CAN BEAT ME WITH THAT FRAIL BODY?

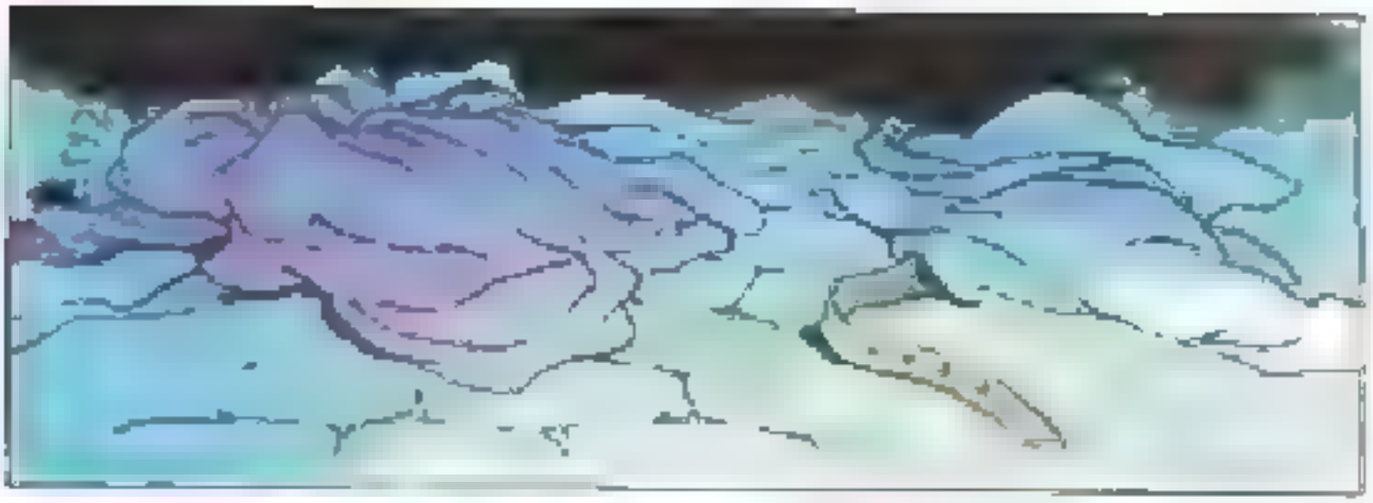
IT'S YOU, DAUPHIN, WHO IS ALONE AND HELPLESS.
ALL YOU CAN DO NOW IS...


TORTURE WOMEN IN YOUR LITTLE CASTLE IN THE HILLS.
AND PLAY KING IN FRONT OF YOUR TINY ARMY!

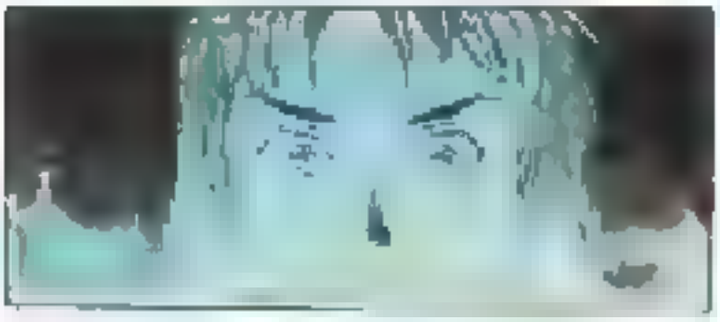
Tsk.

TO LORD JESUS AND OUR KING ...
YOU SHOULD BEG FOR MERCY!


STOP FOOLING YOURSELF
YOU CROSS-DRESSING HERETIC!
IT'S YOU WHO SHOULD ASK FOR MERCY!
NOW!
BEG ME!!
WOOM
GET DRESSED.
YOU MUST PICK ONE!
ONE SUIT IS FOR MEN, AND ONE'S FOR WOMEN.
IT MUST BE AWKWARD FOR YOU TO STAY NAKED, SO YOU MUST CHOOSE THE ONE YOU LIKE.
WELL?
WHICH WILL IT BE?



I'LL BE MERCIFUL IF YOU WANT TO ACT AND DRESS LIKE A WOMAN.
I COULD EVEN TAKE YOU AS MY LOVER
BUT
IF YOU INSIST ON DRESSING AS A MAN ...
THAT IS DISOBEYING BOTH GOD'S RULE AND MINE.
AND IN THAT CASE...



WHAT ARE YOU WAITING FOR?
PICK ONE!!

LOUIS... YOU
STILL WANT ME TO PUT THAT ON...

YOU KNEW JOAN
WHAT A FOOL YOU ARE...
YOU KNOW THAT SHE REFUSED TO WEAR WOMEN'S CLOTHES
AND SHE BURNED FOR IT.
I KNOW THAT YOU KNOW!
HEH...
YES, I KNOW THAT!
THAT'S WHY I'M TELLING YOU TO DO THE SAME!
I LIKED JOAN!
I COULD HAVE GOT ALONG WITH HER!
BUT!
ONLY THE JOAN WHO WAS A GOOD SOLDIER AND HATED THE ENGLISH!
I DON'T NEED A JOAN WHO IS INSPIRED AND PREACHY.
I WANT TO WIN AS GOD INTENDED, WITH MILLIONS OF SOLDIERS AND IRON WEAPONS.
IF YOU WANT TO BE JOAN, YOU SHOULD BE ABLE TO DIE AS SHE DID!
JOAN IS DEAD! SHE'S ASH!
WHAT DID THAT DO FOR ME?
DID THE ENGLISH LEAVE?

THE PEOPLE IN THE BIBLE WOULD HAVE BEEN HAPPIER IF GOD HAD REALIZED JUSTICE/

IT'S THE SAME NOW/

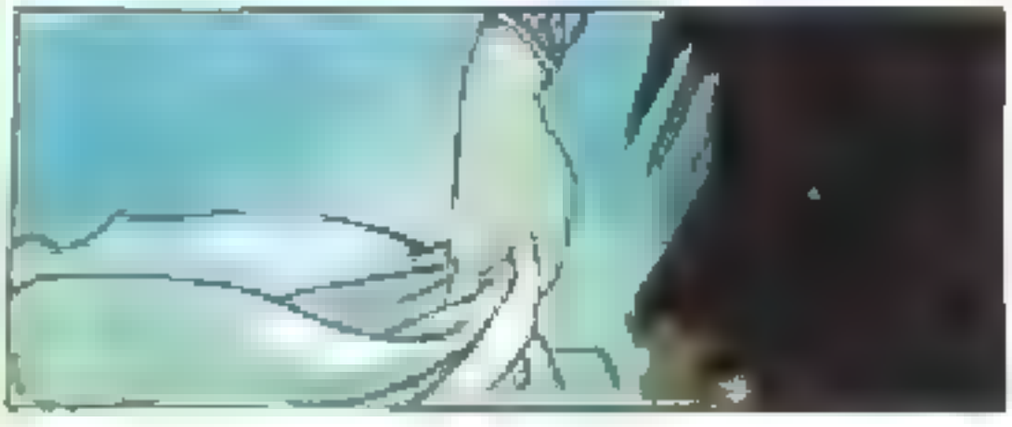
WHAT CAN I GIVE MYSELF TO, BESIDES POWER!!

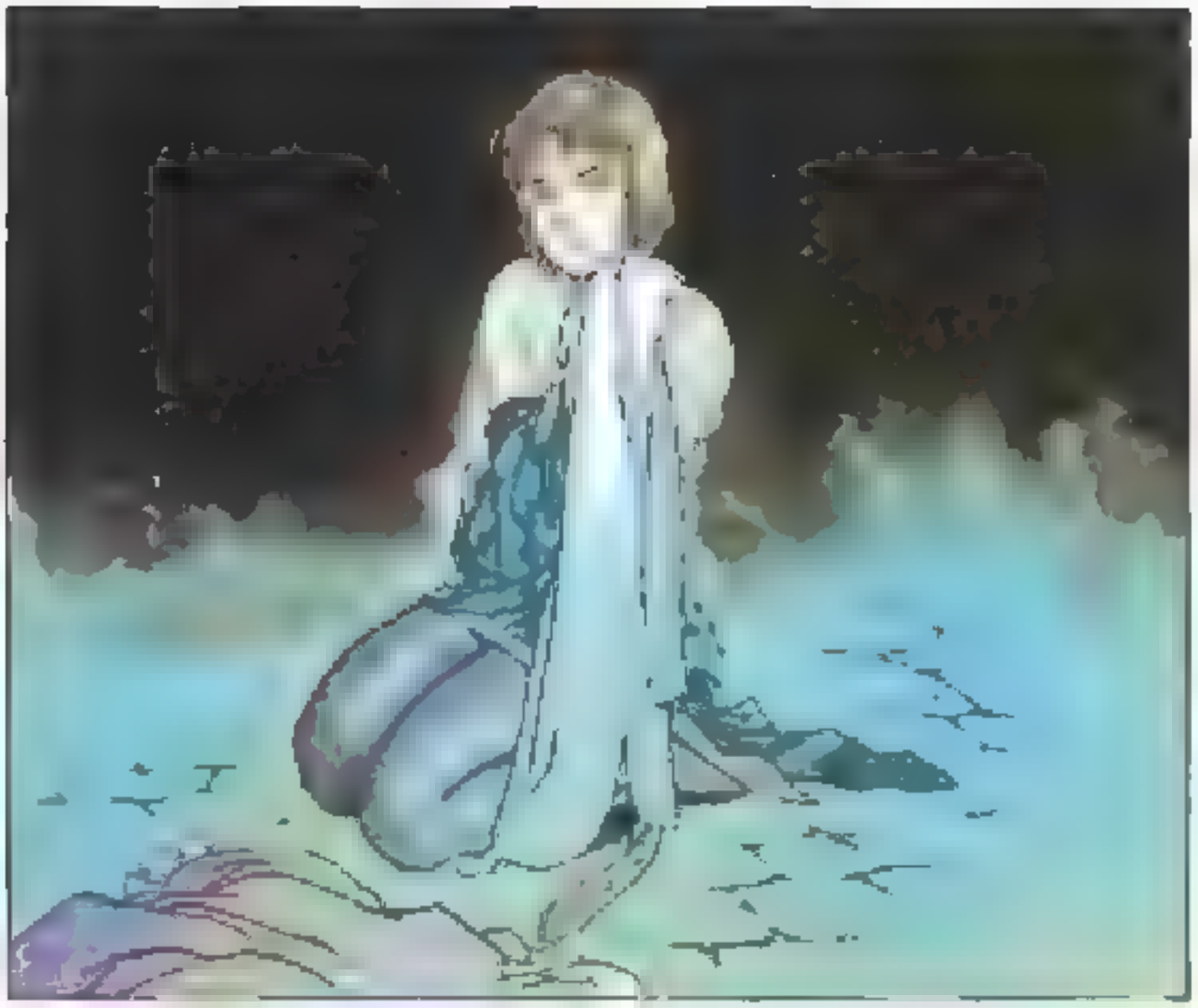
THAT'S NOT TRUE, DAUPHIN.

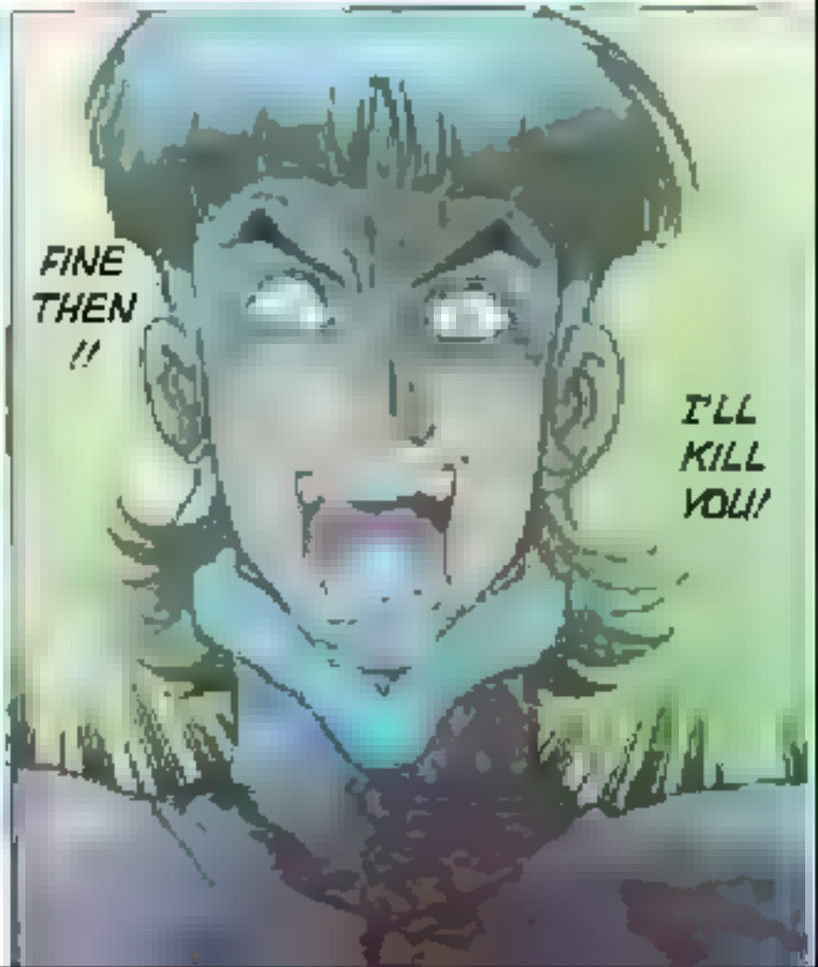
YOU SHOULD BE IN AWE OF GOD'S WILL

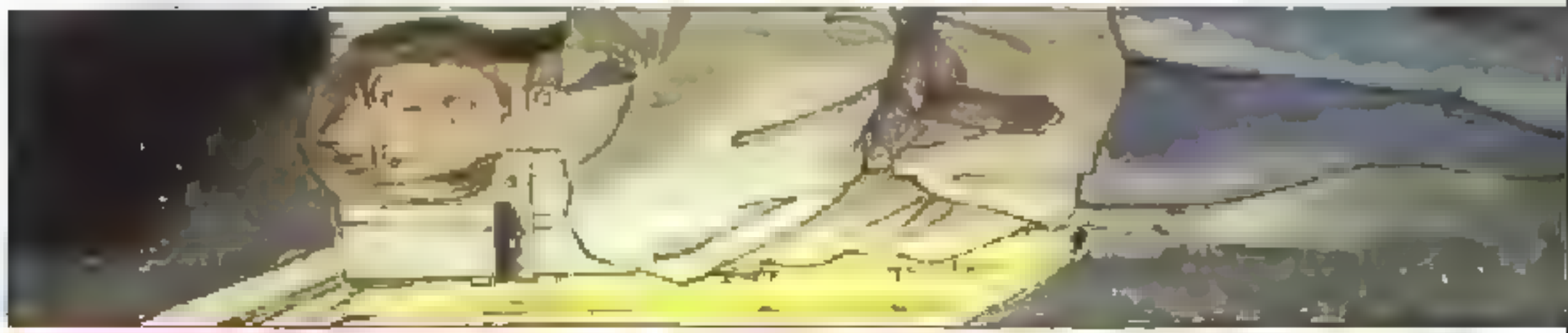
JOAN FOLLOWED GOD'S WILL WITH DIGNITY/

YOU DON'T HAVE JUSTICE OR POWER/

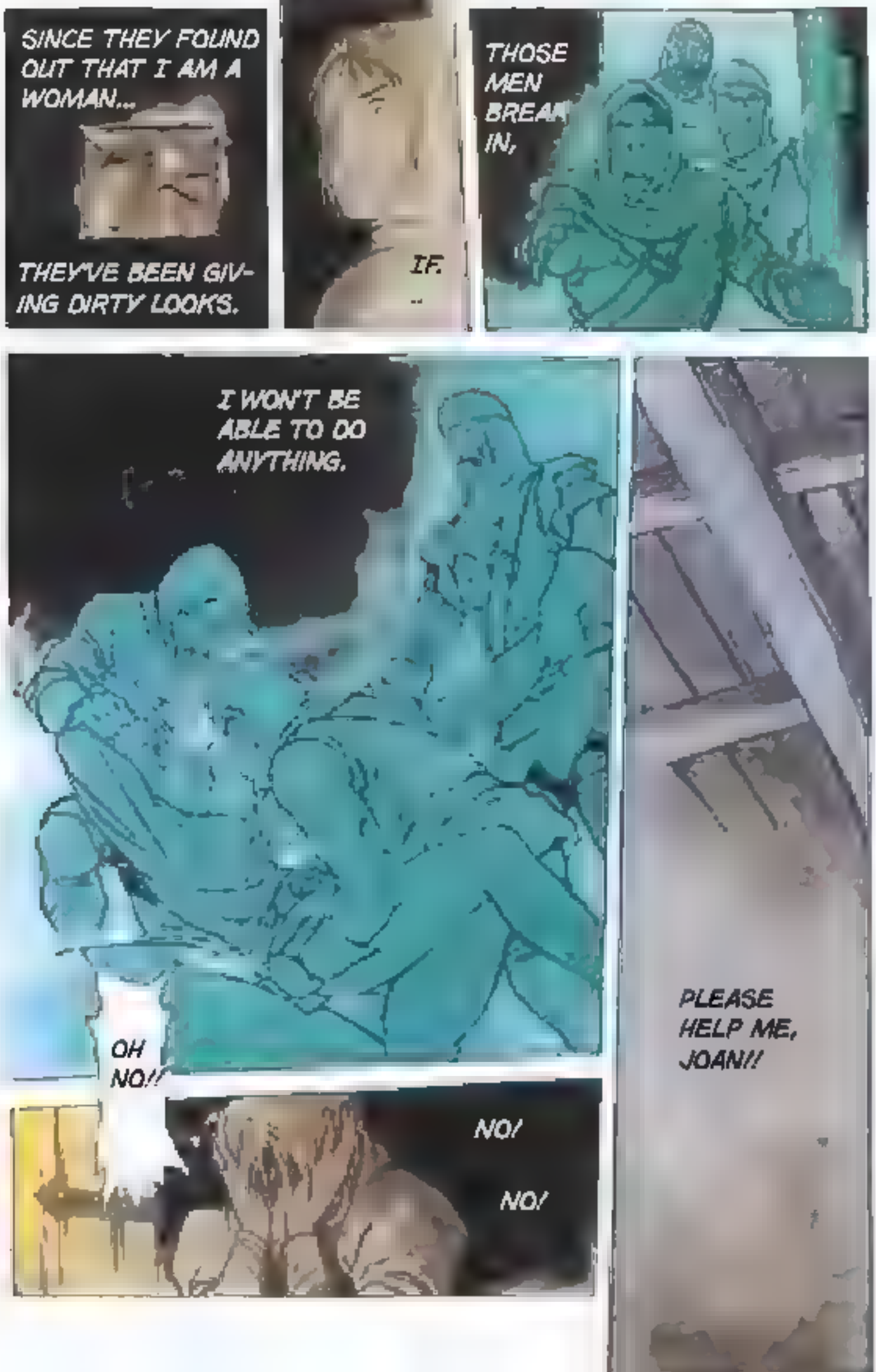





FINE THEN !!
I'LL KILL YOU!



I...AM SO... SCARED. .../
I'LL BE TIED TO THE STAKE
AND BURNED TO DEATH!!
OHHH


SINCE THEY FOUND OUT THAT I AM A WOMAN...
THEY'VE BEEN GIVING DIRTY LOOKS.
IF...
THOSE MEN BREAK IN,
I WON'T BE ABLE TO DO ANYTHING.
OH NO!!
NO!
NO!
PLEASE HELP ME, JOAN!!

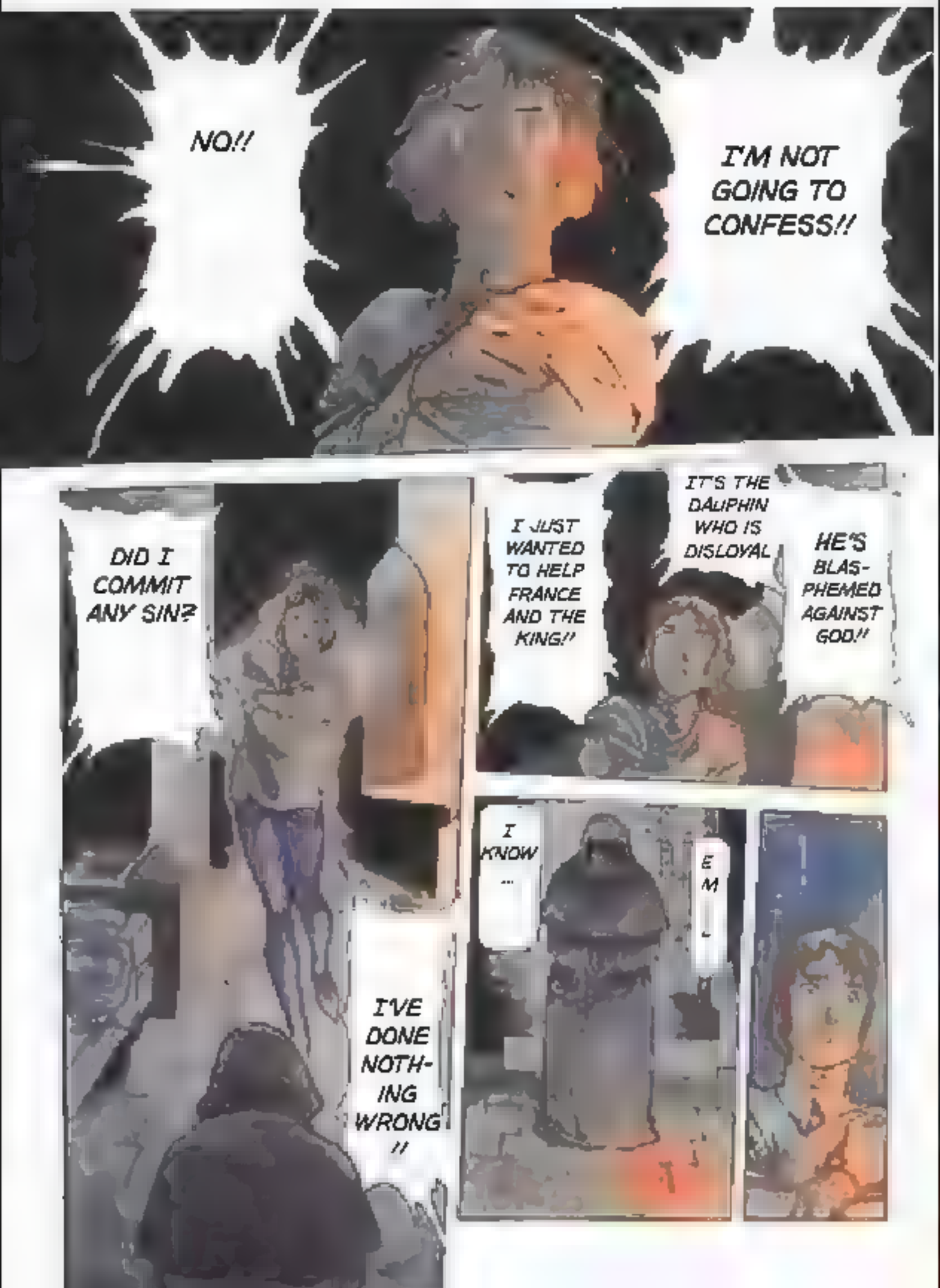
PLEASE JOAN, COME SAVE ME.

JOAN, WHY DON'T YOU APPEAR?
DO YOU NOT LIKE ME ANY-MORE
DID I SAY SOME-THING
WRONG THAT TIME IN CHINON?
IS IT BECAUSE OF WHAT I SAID ABOUT HIS MAJESTY AND AGNES?
DID I HURT JOAN BY SAYING THAT?
I'M SORRY! I SPOKE CARELESSLY... BECAUSE I THOUGHT WE WERE GOOD FRIENDS...

AH!
I CAN'T BEAR THIS!
BURNED ALIVE
CAN THIS CRUEL THING EXIST ON THE EARTH?
HAVE I

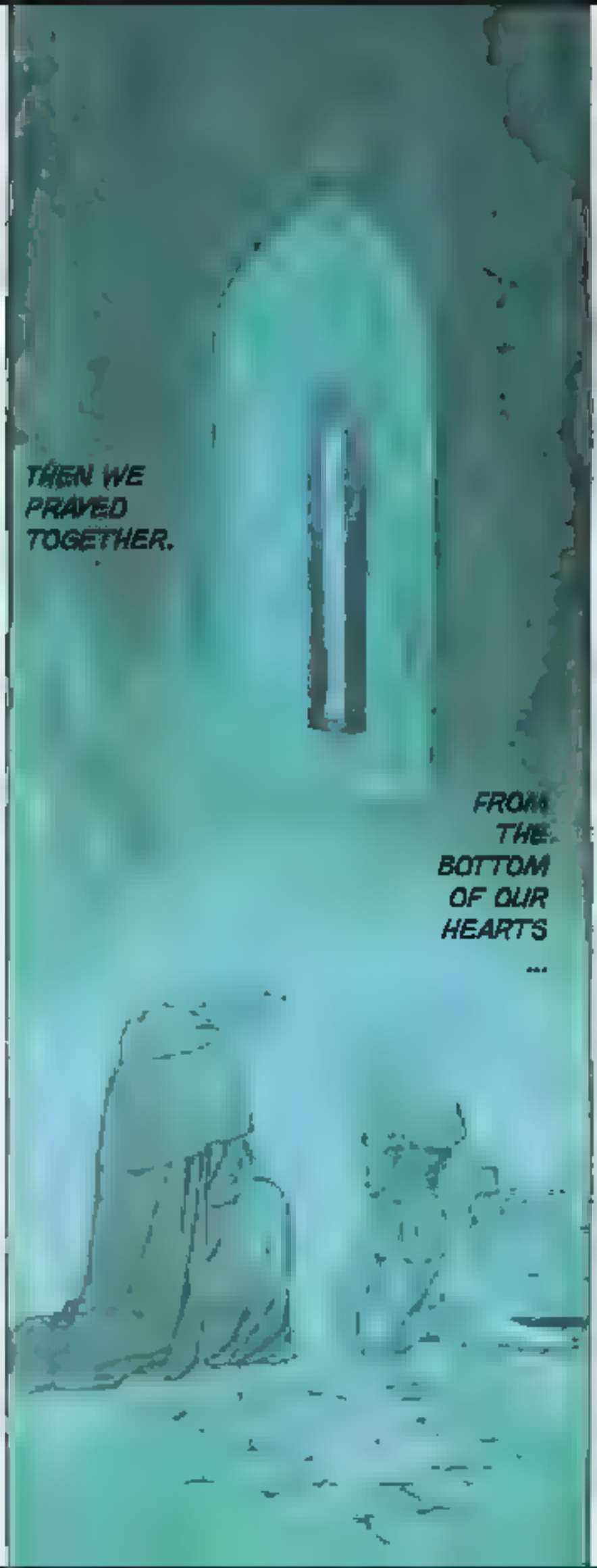
MAYBE I SHOULD APOLOGIZE TO THE DAUPHIN.
I'M SURE IT'S NOT TOO LATE
THEN I DON'T HAVE TO DIE.
I DON'T HAVE TO BURN.
NO!
I WOULD RATHER DIE THAN GIVE IN TO HIM.
I'D RATHER DIE...
AHHH, BUT...
CRACK

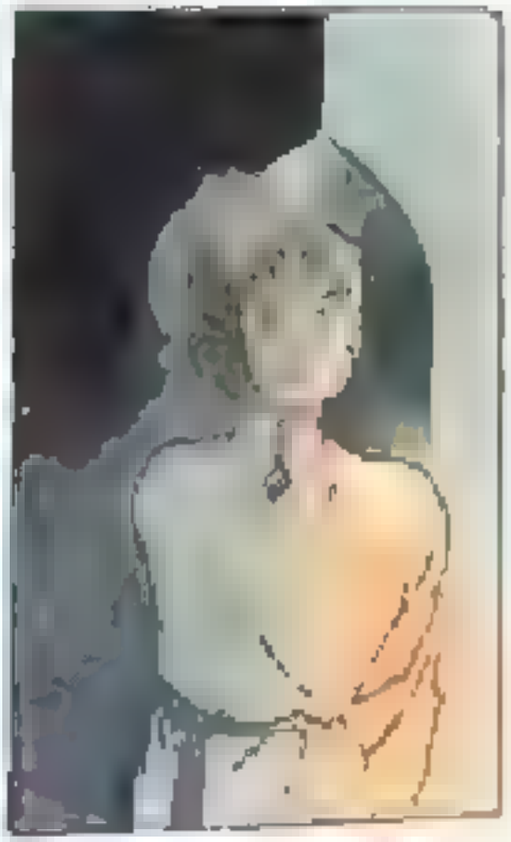
EMIL DE BAUD-RICOURT! YOU'VE BEEN ORDERED BY THE DAUPHIN
TO BE BURNED AT THE STAKE TOMOR-ROW MORN-ING!!
IF YOU WANT TO REACH THE KINGDOM OF GOD, CON-FESS YOUR SINS TONIGHT
AND BEG TO BE FOR GIVEN

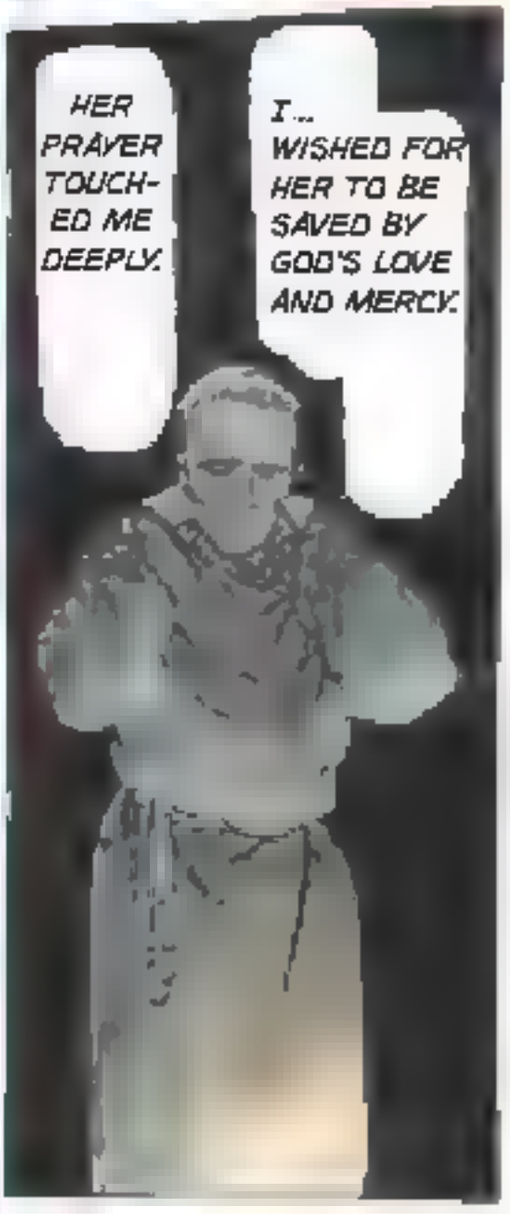

NO!!
I'M NOT GOING TO CONFESS!!
DID I COMMIT ANY SIN?
I'VE DONE NOTH-ING WRONG !!
I JUST WANTED TO HELP FRANCE AND THE KING!!
IT'S THE DAUPHIN WHO IS DISLOYAL
HE'S BLAS-PHEMED AGAINST GOD!!
I KNOW ...
E M L

DO YOU
KNOW WHO I AM?
...
YOU...
YES. WE MET IN LOCHE.
I'M BROTH-ER MARTIN.
I WAS TOLD TO GIVE YOU COMMU-NION
IT'S AN ODD COINCI-DENCE

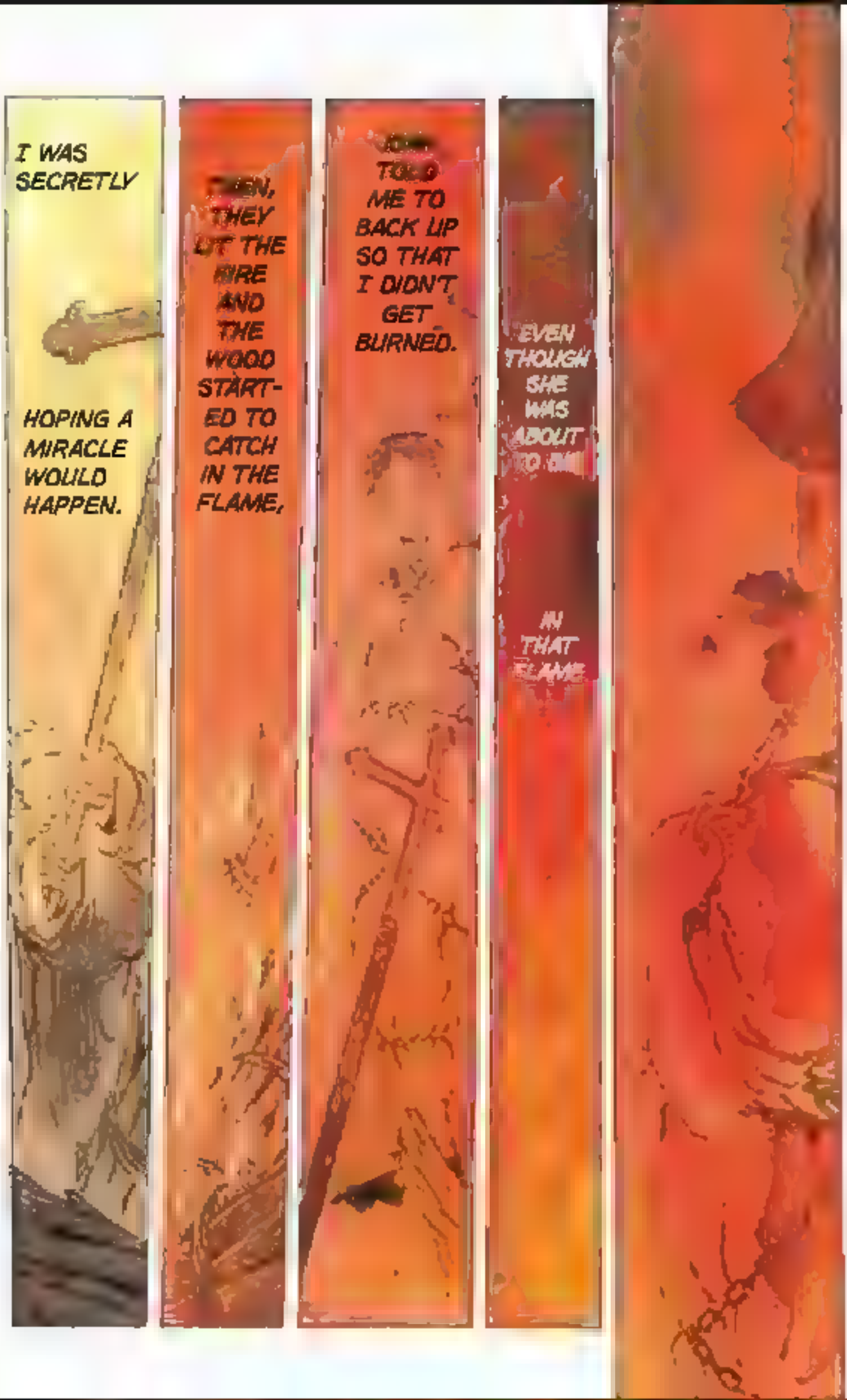
I ALSO LISTENED TO JOAN'S CONFESSION..
...IN ROUEN, TEN YEARS AGO
I TOLD HER ABOUT THE PUNISHMENT AND GAVE COMMUNION WHEN SHE WAS IN THE TOWER OF CHATEAU OF BOVEROULLE.
IT WAS VERY HARD FOR ME.
SHE LOST CONTROL.
SHE SHOUTED AND CRIED ...
IT TOOK ME A WHILE TO LISTEN TO HER CONFESSION.

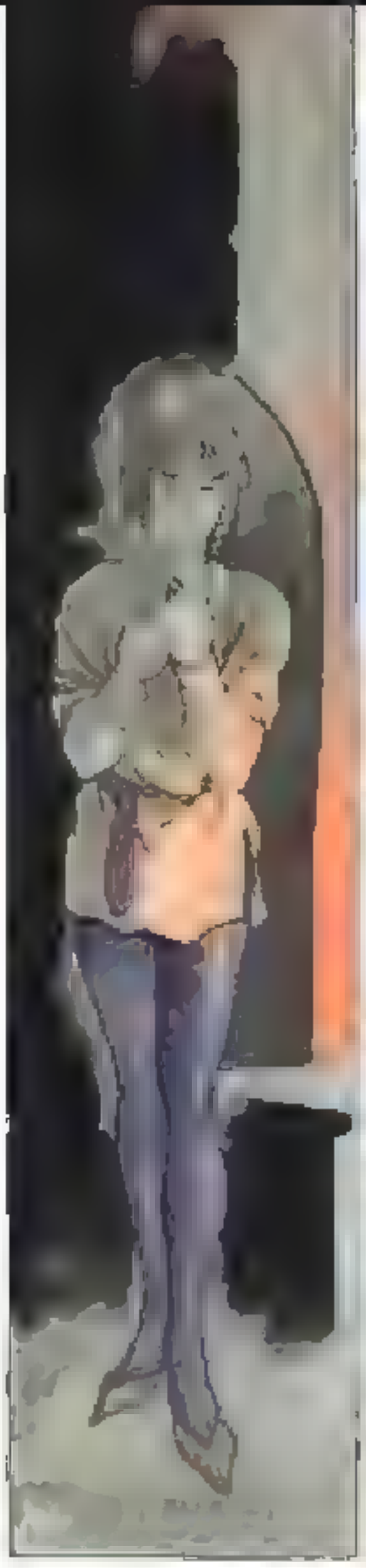

THEN WE PRAYED TOGETHER.
FROM THE BOTTOM OF OUR HEARTS ...




HER PRAYER TOUCHED ME DEEPLY.
I... WISHED FOR HER TO BE SAVED BY GOD'S LOVE AND MERCY.

WHEN THE DAY CAME, SHE WANTED THE CROSS AT THE STAKE,
I HELD IT ERECT IN FRONT OF HER.


I WAS SECRETLY
HOPING A MIRACLE WOULD HAPPEN.
THEN, THEY LIT THE FIRE AND THE WOOD START-ED TO CATCH IN THE FLAME,
TOLD ME TO BACK UP SO THAT I DIDN'T GET BURNED.
EVEN THOUGH SHE WAS ABOUT TO DIE
IN THAT FLAME



I STOOD THERE AND WATCHED UNTIL HER BODY BECAME ASH.

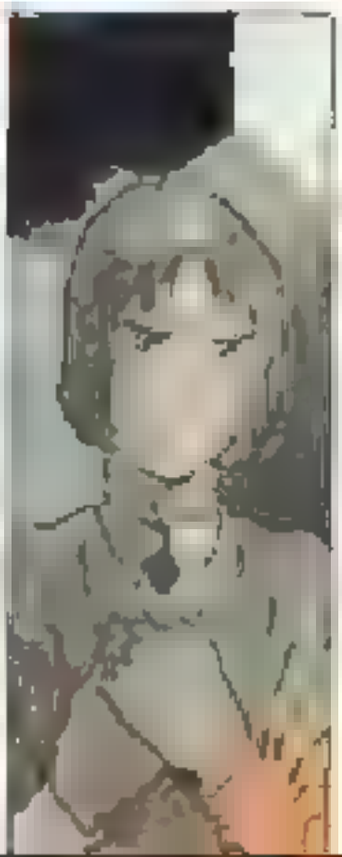
THE MIRACLE DIDN'T HAPPEN.

BUT THEN I THOUGHT

THAT THE DEATH OF JESUS MUST HAVE BEEN LIKE THIS...

JESUS HIMSELF WAS NOT SAVED BY A MIRACLE

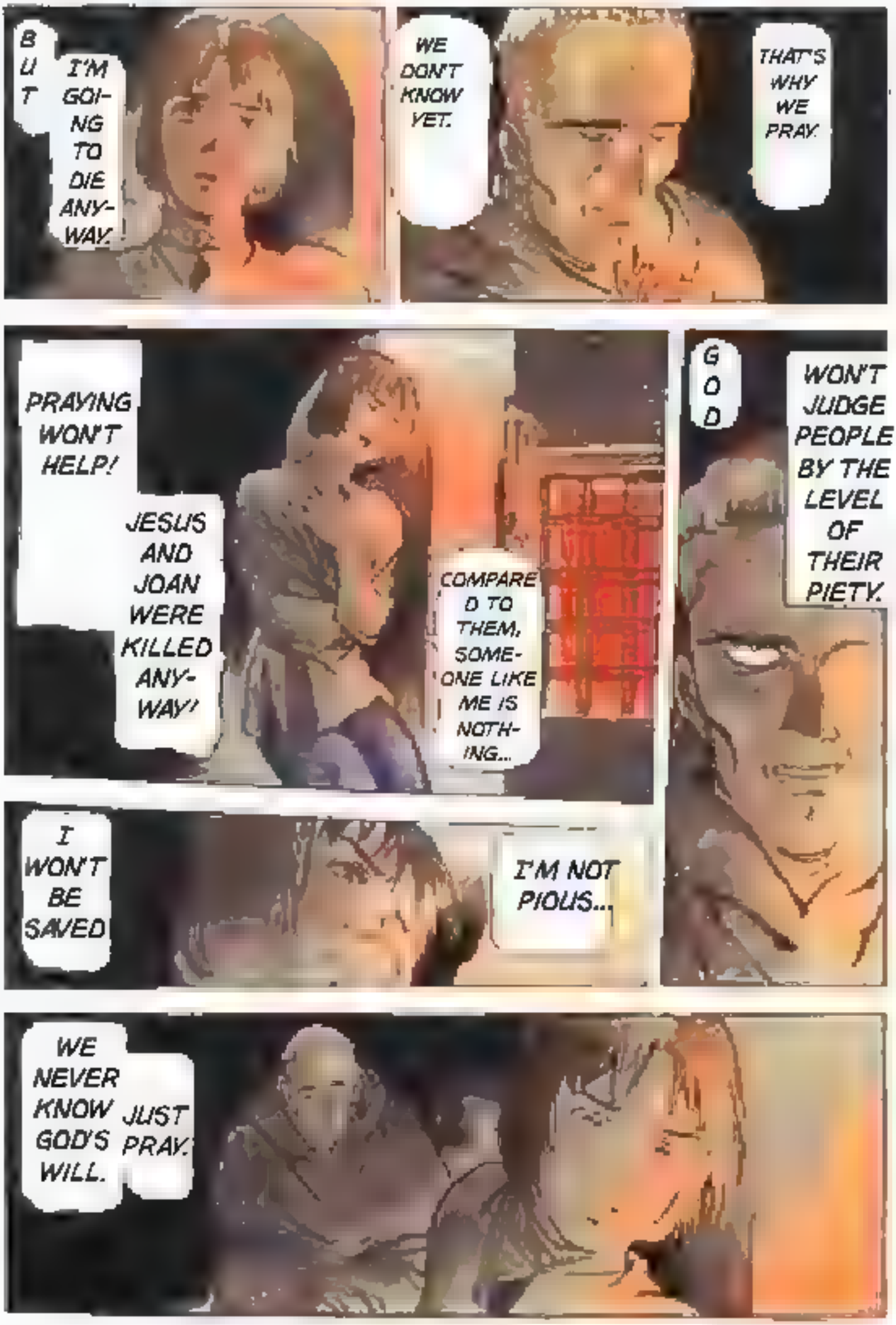
AND HE DIED SHOUTING THE NAME OF GOD.

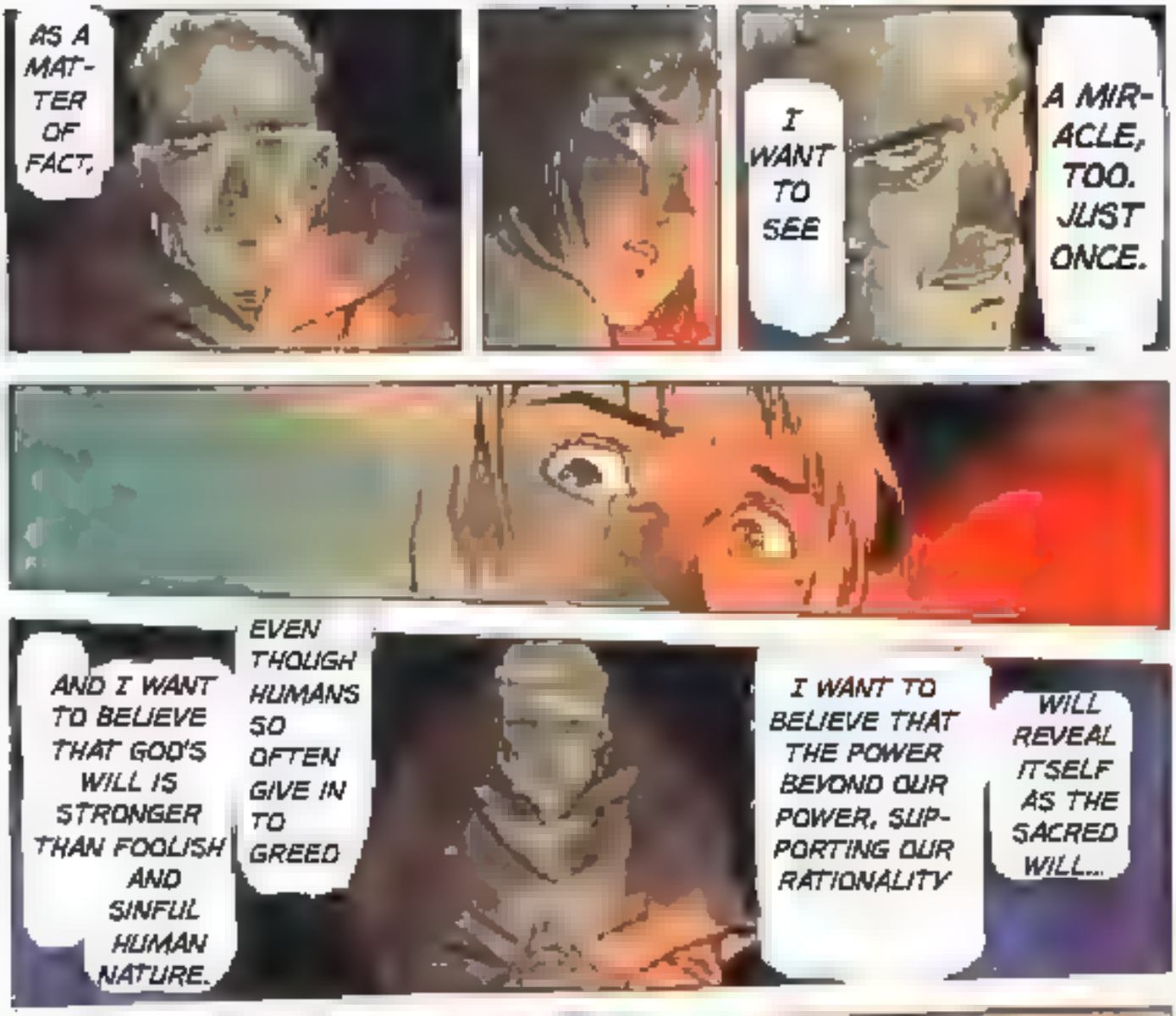


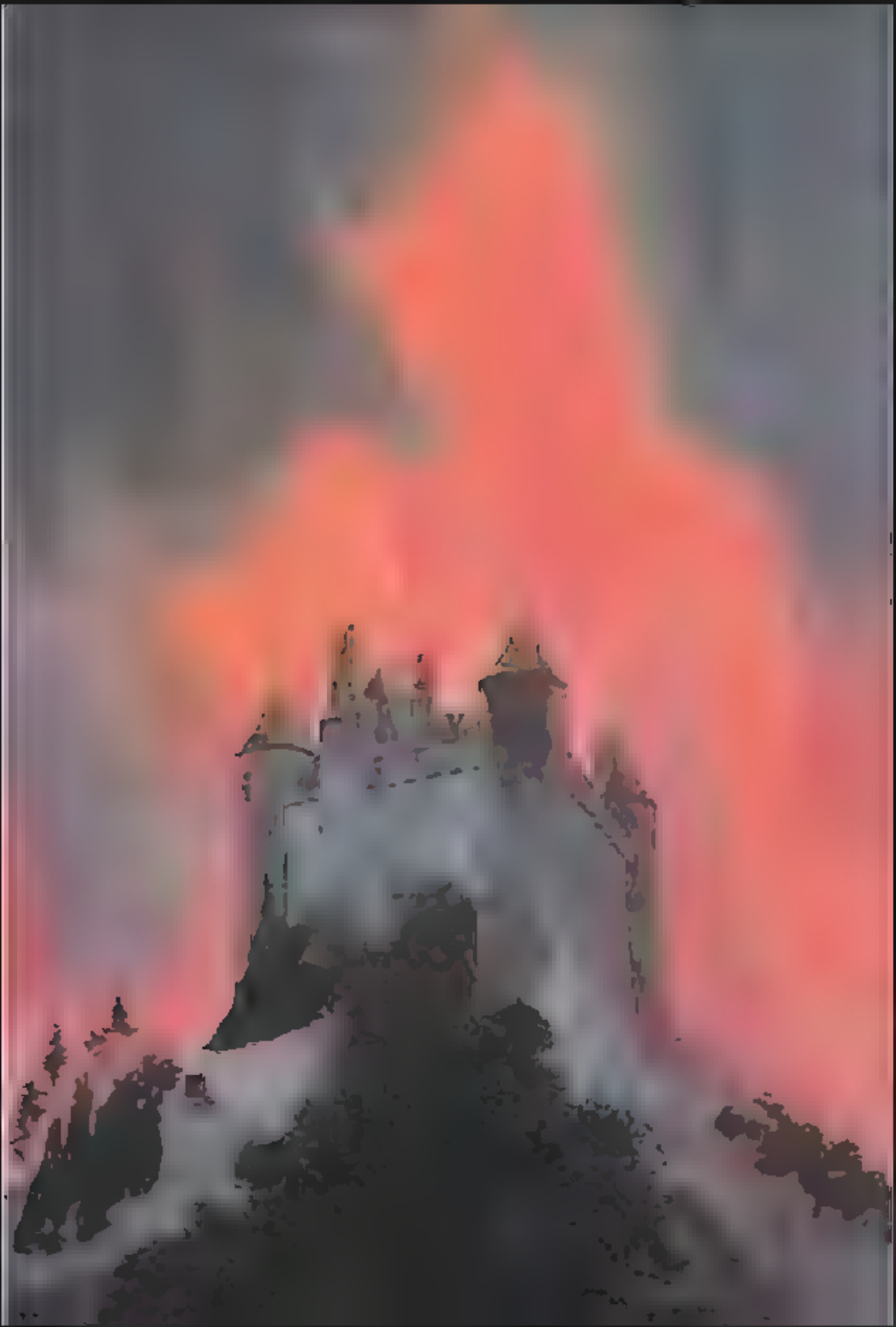
BUT AS YOU KNOW

HE WAS RESURRECTED THREE DAYS LATER AND WENT BACK TO HIS HOMETOWN OF GALILEE.

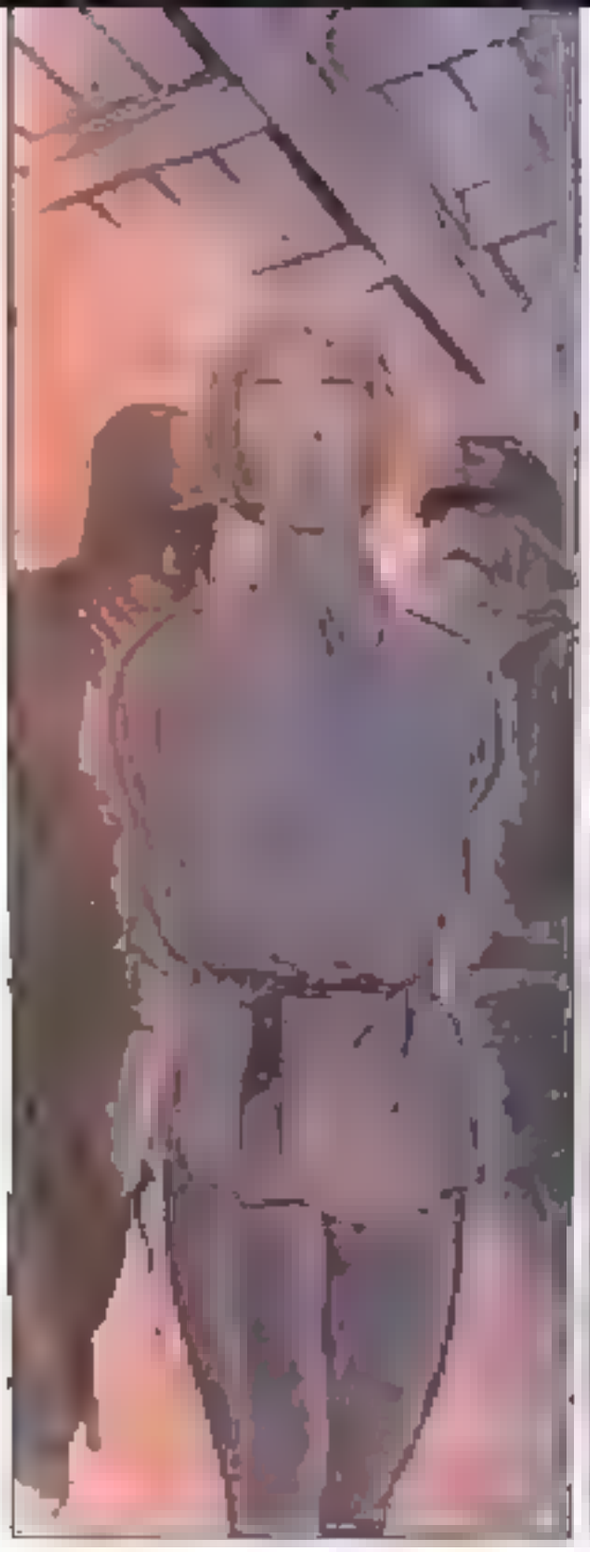
EMIL
WHEN I HEARD ABOUT YOU I THOUGHT
LA PUCELLE HAD RISEN AGAIN IN YOUR BODY.
IF THIS IS SO,
THEN SHE WILL PRO-TECT YOU.
IN TRUTH, I DIDN'T COME FOR YOUR CONFES-SION
LET US PRAY, NOW ...
FOR YOUR SALVA-TION

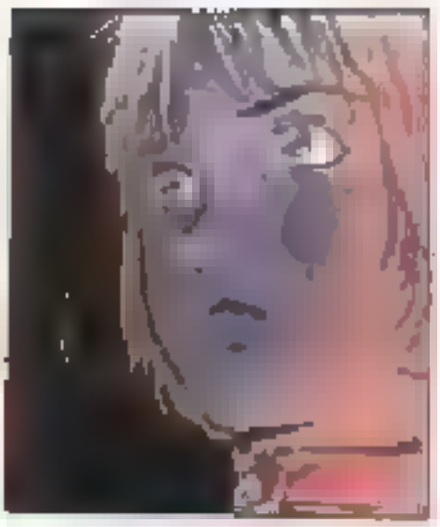

BUT I'M GOING TO DIE ANYWAY.
WE DON'T KNOW YET.
THAT'S WHY WE PRAY.
PRAYING WON'T HELP!
JESUS AND JOAN WERE KILLED ANYWAY!
COMPARED TO THEM, SOMEONE LIKE ME IS NOTHING...
GOD WON'T JUDGE PEOPLE BY THE LEVEL OF THEIR PIETY.
I WON'T BE SAVED
I'M NOT PIOUS...
WE NEVER KNOW GOD'S WILL.
JUST PRAY.


AS A MATTER OF FACT,
I WANT TO SEE
A MIRACLE, TOO. JUST ONCE.
AND I WANT TO BELIEVE THAT GOD'S WILL IS STRONGER THAN FOOLISH AND SINFUL HUMAN NATURE.
EVEN THOUGH HUMANS SO OFTEN GIVE IN TO GREED
I WANT TO BELIEVE THAT THE POWER BEYOND OUR POWER, SUPPORTING OUR RATIONALITY
WILL REVEAL ITSELF AS THE SACRED WILL...
WE WILL PRAY TO JESUS AND JOAN FOR YOUR SALVATION.
SO
STAY STRONG ...



THE SKY SURE LOOKS SPOOKY
IS THAT RED ...
THE COLOR OF BLOOD OR FIRE?
HMM
BAD WEA-THER ...



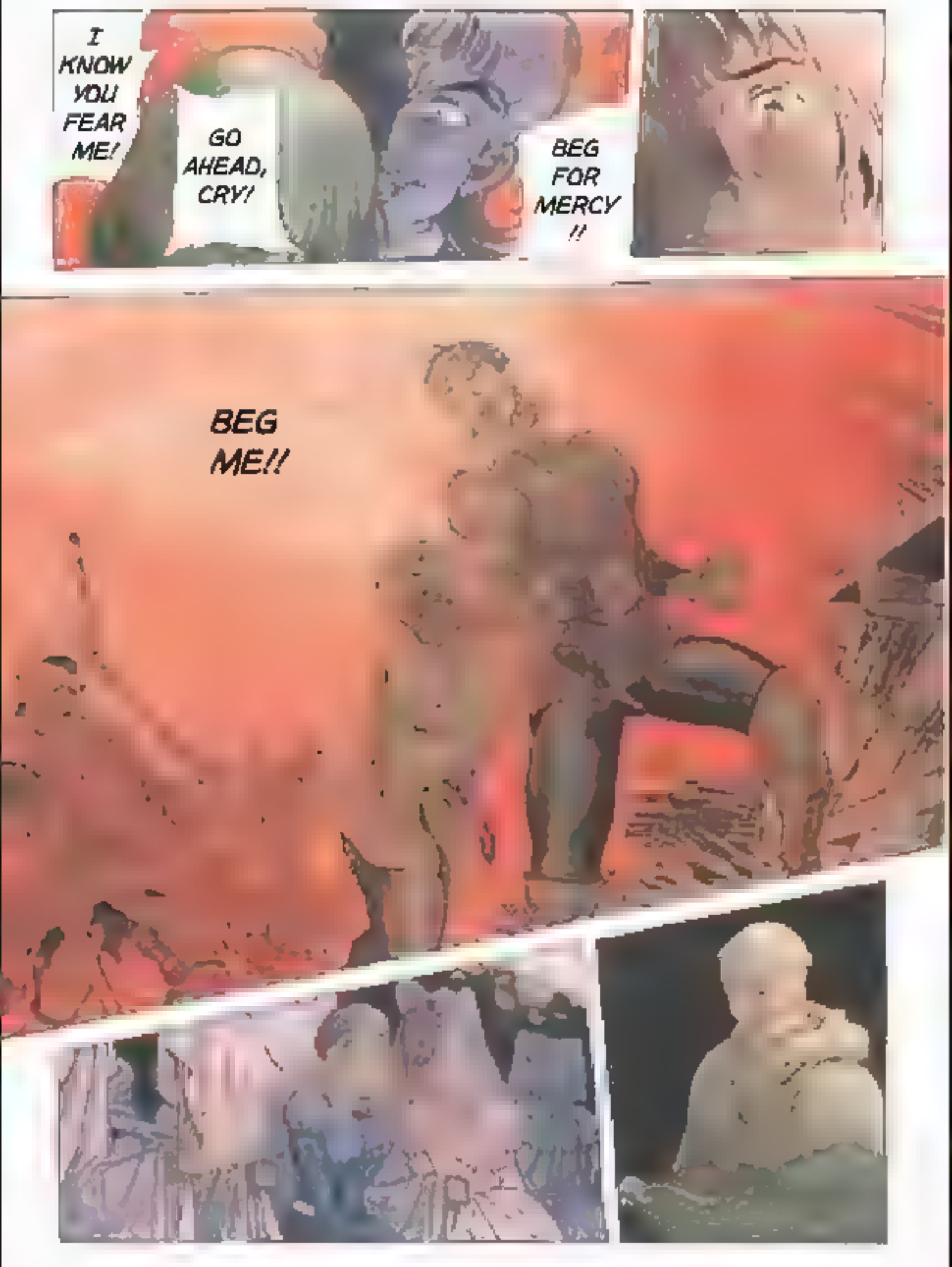


NOW
WALK!

MARGARET
KEEP YOUR EYES OPEN !!
THE BITCH WHO MADE A FOOL OF YOU...
IS GOING TO GET HERS..!
DO IT NOW !!
WHAT'S THE PROB-LEM!?

CRY AND BEG MY FORGIVE-NESS!!
FEAR ME, COW-ARD!!
RUMBLE
DAU-PHIN, IT LOOKS LIKE ...
IT MIGHT RAIN SOON. WE SHOULD POST-PONE...
NO! GET ON WITH IT!!

HEY !
GET UP THERE !!
FOOLS !!
IDIOTS!
MOVE!

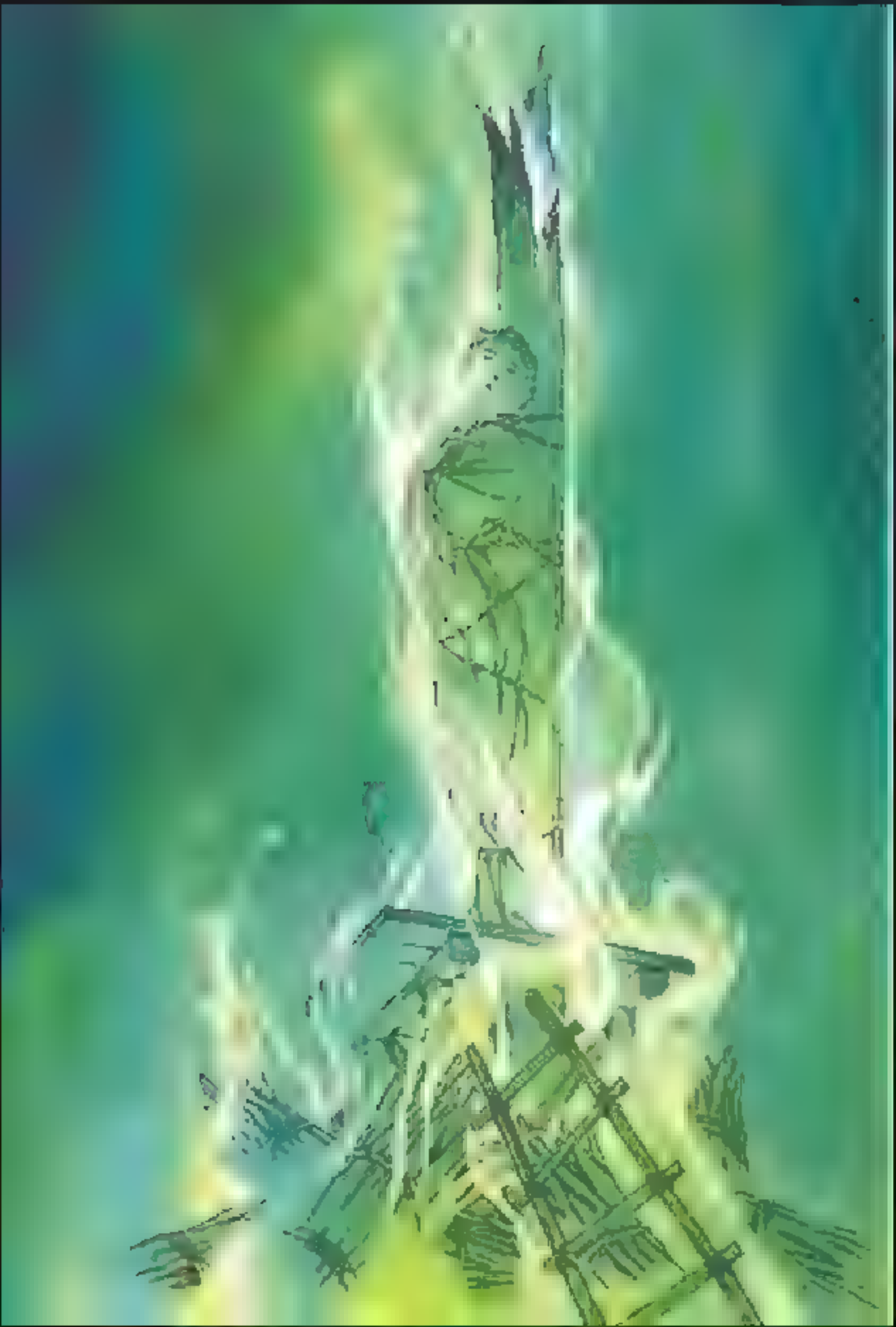

I KNOW YOU FEAR ME!
GO AHEAD, CRY!
BEG FOR MERCY !!
BEG ME!!

NO ONE CAN HELP YOU NOW!!
GOD AND HIS MONKS CAN'T HELP YOU!!
YOU INSOLENT BITCH!!
THIS IS WHAT YOU GET!!
RUMBLE
I WIN

ALL OF YOU LIS-TEN //
THE WAR HAS NOT ENDED YET//
I'LL KILL ANYONE TIMID ENOUGH TO SPREAD THESE TREACHEROUS RUMORS//

I'LL BE THE KING!
TIE HER UP!!
EVEN IF THIS COUN-TRY MUST BECOME A SEA OF BLOOD TO ACCOM-PLISH IT.

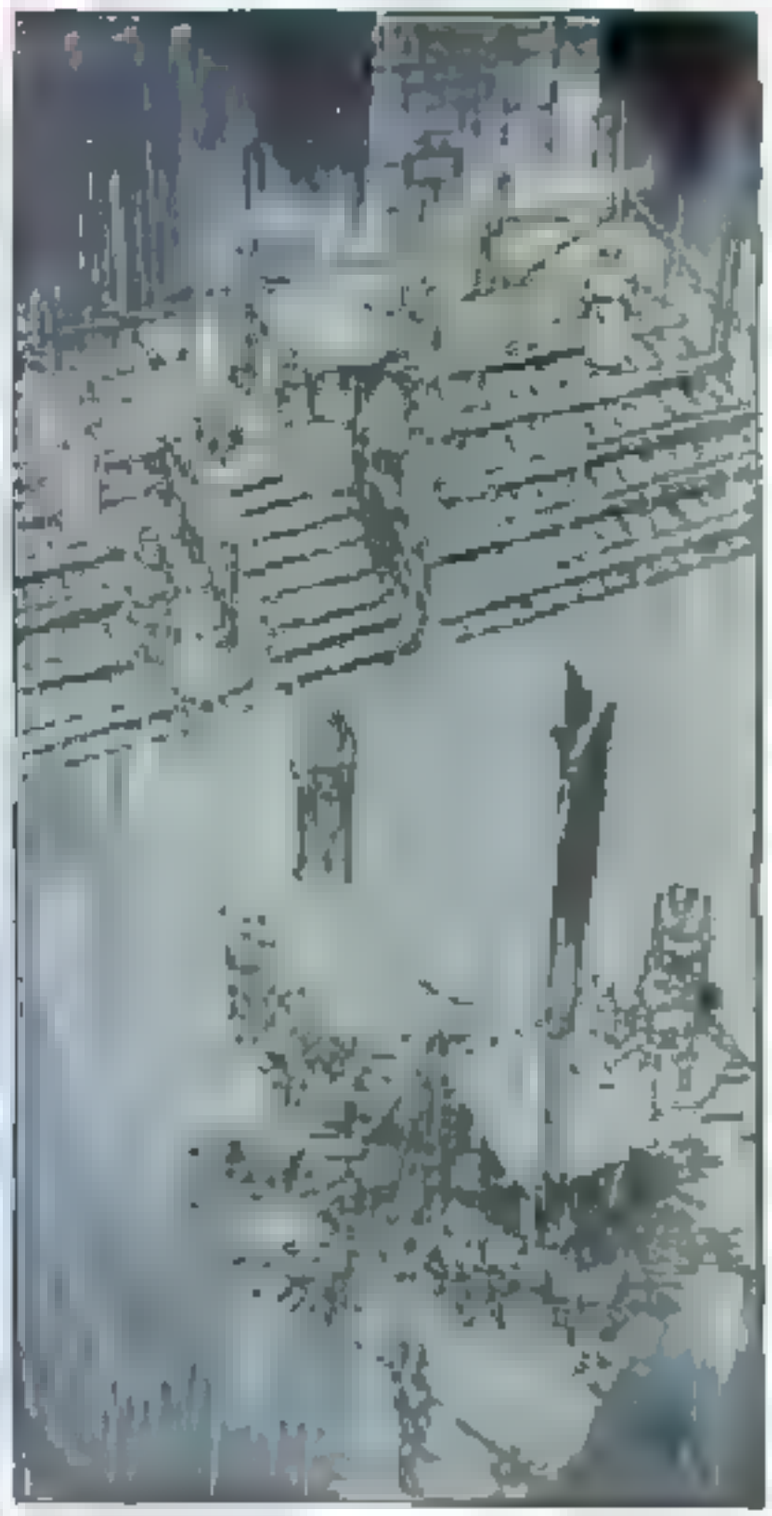
KOOM

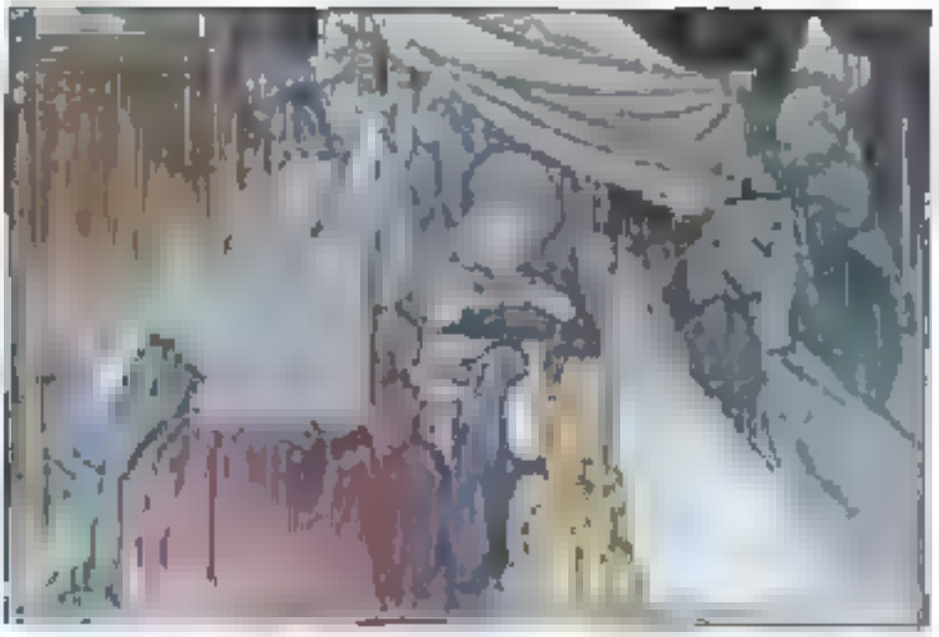


... WHAT WAS THAT?
WAS IT ...
JOAN?
DID YOU SEE HER?
IT WAS HER!
YES
IT WAS ...

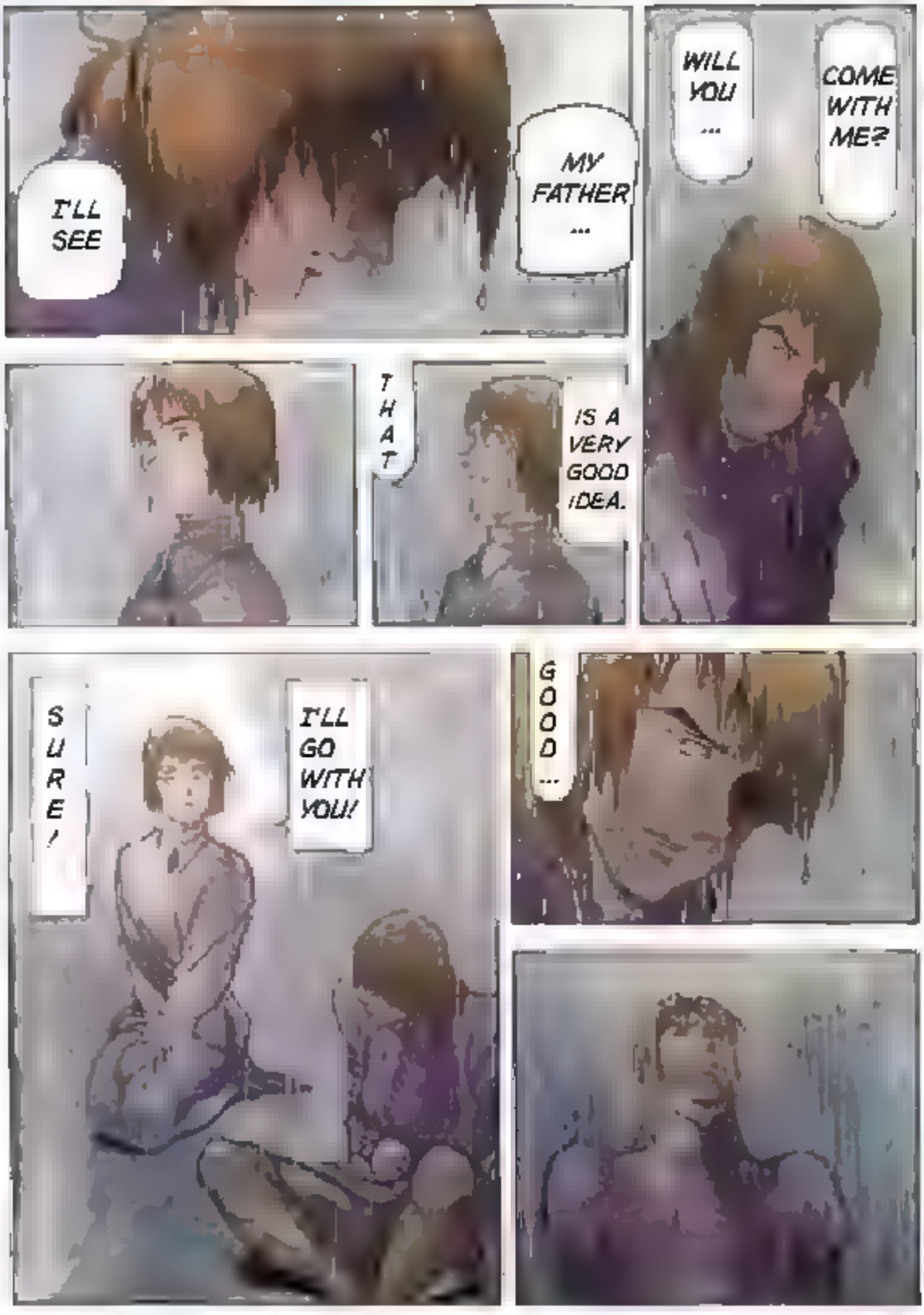
I SAW HER TOO ..
I DID...

SHHHH



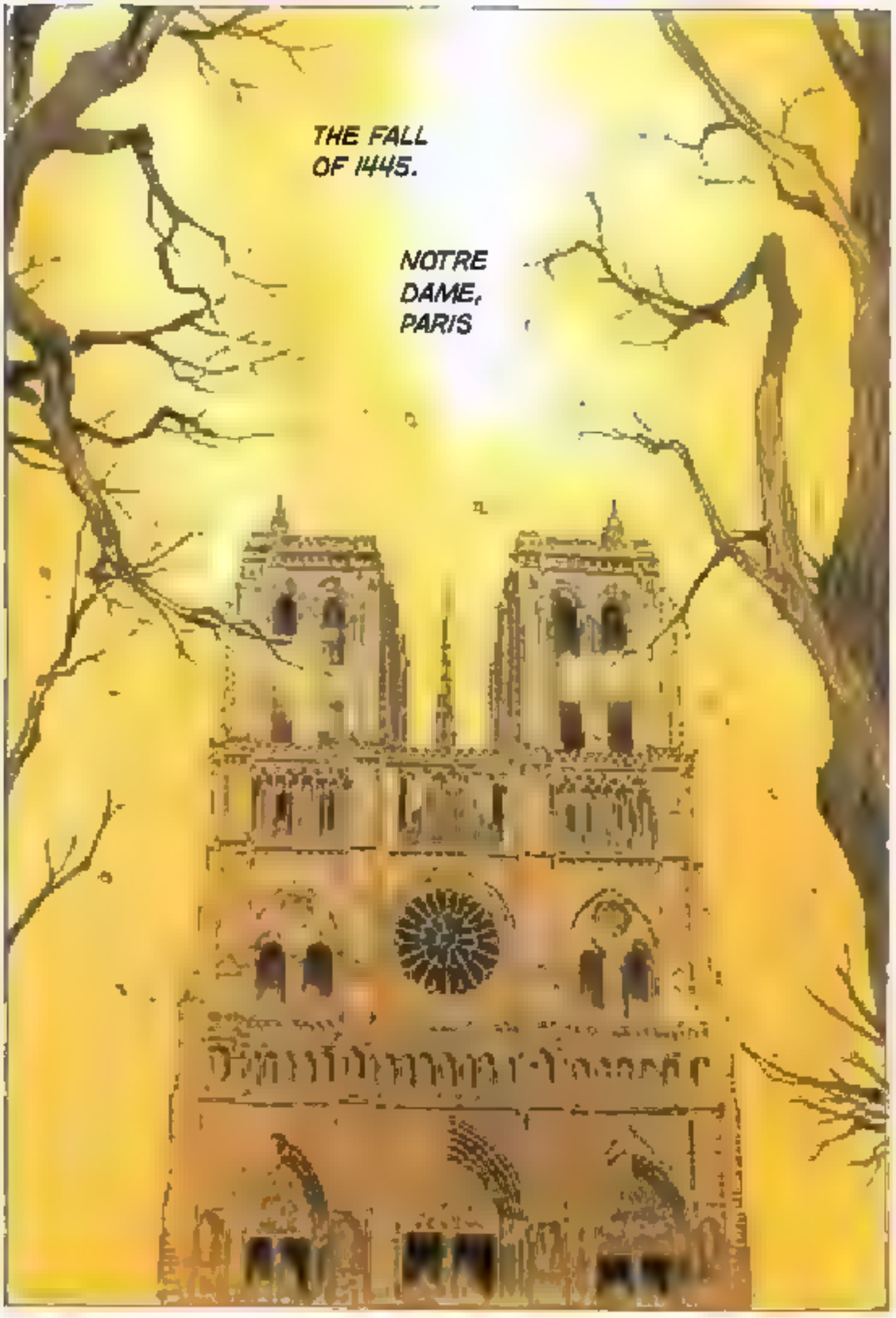


WHAT ...
NOW?

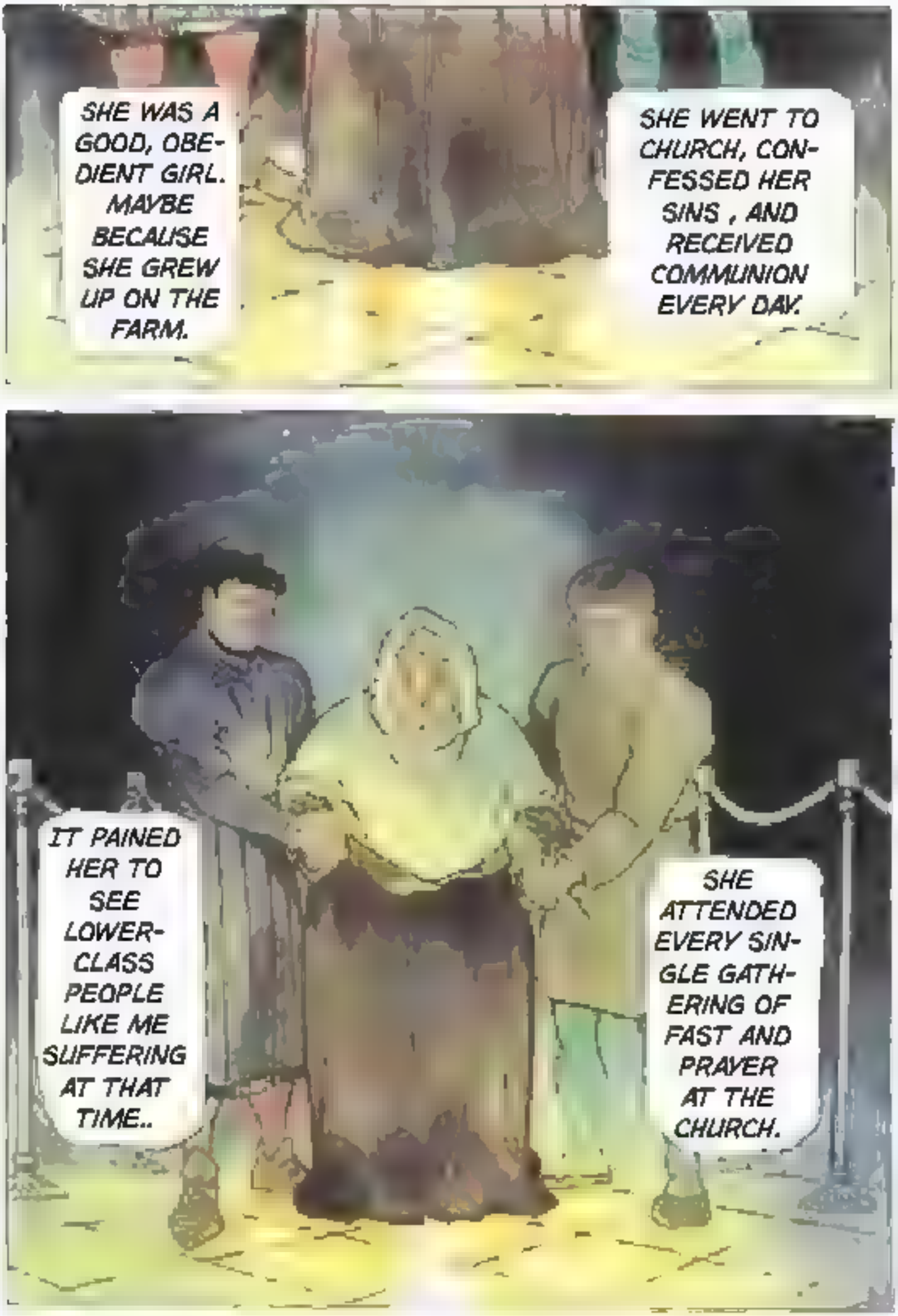

I'LL SEE
MY FATHER ...
WILL YOU ...
COME WITH ME?
THAT
IS A VERY GOOD IDEA.
SURE!
I'LL GO WITH YOU!
GOOD ...

DON'T LOOK AT ME!
EMIL!!
....
DAMN!
THE RAIN HURTS MY EYES!!
HUHHH UH
HUH UH

(Blank Page)

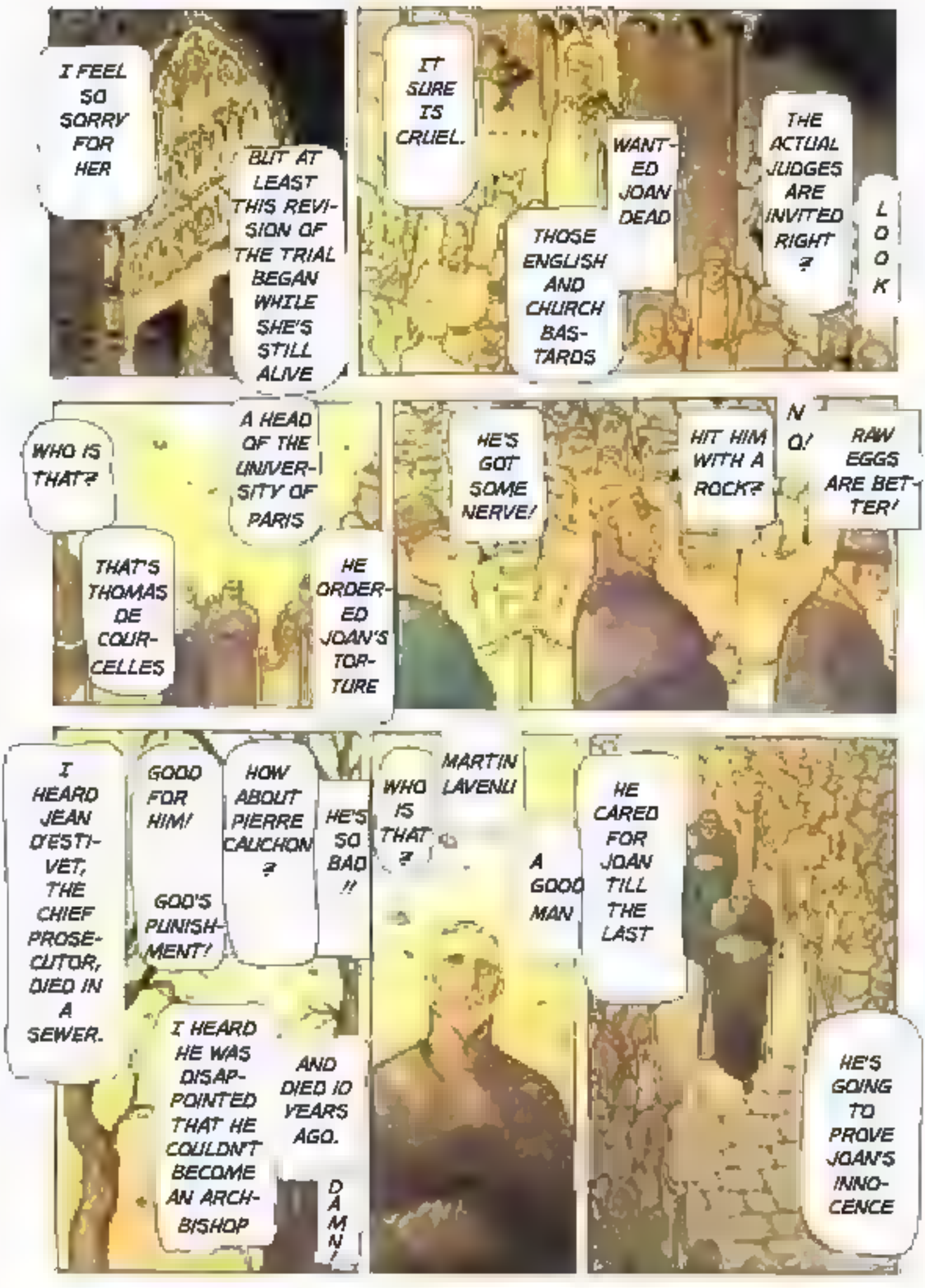

THE FALL
OF 1445.
NOTRE
DAME,
PARIS

I HAD A DAUGHTER OUT OF AN OFFICIAL MARRIAGE.
I HAD HER BAPTIZED, HAD CONFIRMATION,
AND RAISED HER TO FEAR GOD AND RESPECT THE CHURCH.


SHE WAS A GOOD, OBEDIENT GIRL. MAYBE BECAUSE SHE GREW UP ON THE FARM.
SHE WENT TO CHURCH, CONFESSED HER SINS , AND RECEIVED COMMUNION EVERY DAY.
IT PAINED HER TO SEE LOWER-CLASS PEOPLE LIKE ME SUFFERING AT THAT TIME..
SHE ATTENDED EVERY SINGLE GATHERING OF FAST AND PRAYER AT THE CHURCH.

SHE WAS OUR PRIDE AND JOY ...
BUT ...
ENEMIES CAPTURED HER AND PUT HER ON A TRIAL FOR AN UNREASONABLE SIN!
THEY WOULD NOT LET THE LONELY GIRL ARGUE HER INNOCENCE!
THEY SHAMEFULLY PROCLAIMED HER GUILTY
AND BURNED HER AT THE STAKE !!

THERE'S NO COM-FORT FOR ME.
NO HOPE, EITHER.
I ONLY WISH
FOR MY DEAD DAUGHTER TO COME BACK TO ME...


I FEEL SO SORRY FOR HER
BUT AT LEAST THIS REVISION OF THE TRIAL BEGAN WHILE SHE'S STILL ALIVE
IT SURE IS CRUEL.
WANTED JOAN DEAD
THOSE ENGLISH AND CHURCH BASTARDS
THE ACTUAL JUDGES ARE INVITED RIGHT ?
LOOK
WHO IS THAT?
A HEAD OF THE UNIVERSITY OF PARIS
THAT'S THOMAS DE COURCELLES
HE ORDERED JOAN'S TORTURE
HE'S GOT SOME NERVE!
HIT HIM WITH A ROCK?
NO!
RAW EGGS ARE BETTER!
I HEARD JEAN D'ESTIVET, THE CHIEF PROSECUTOR, DIED IN A SEWER.
GOOD FOR HIM!
GOD'S PUNISHMENT!
HOW ABOUT PIERRE CAUCHON ?
HE'S SO BAD !!
I HEARD HE WAS DISAPPOINTED THAT HE COULDN'T BECOME AN ARCHBISHOP
AND DIED 10 YEARS AGO.
DAMN!
WHO IS THAT ?
MARTIN LAVENU
A GOOD MAN
HE CARED FOR JOAN TILL THE LAST
HE'S GOING TO PROVE JOAN'S INNOCENCE

SO MANY MONKS, SO MANY MINDS.
HE'S NOT LIKE CALIC-HON AT ALL
YAH
THOSE CHURCH BIG WIGS JUST WANT STATUS AND FAME
SHAME!
SPEAK-ING OF STA-TUS AND FAME
YEAH! BARON GILLES DE RAIS
I WAS SO SUR-PRISED BY HIM!
THAT PER-VERT
HE WAS HANG-ED, NO?
YEAH, 15 YEARS AGO
I CAN'T BELIEVE HE WAS JOAN'S COMRADE
HE KILLED MORE THAN 100 KIDS!
SO AW-FUL ...

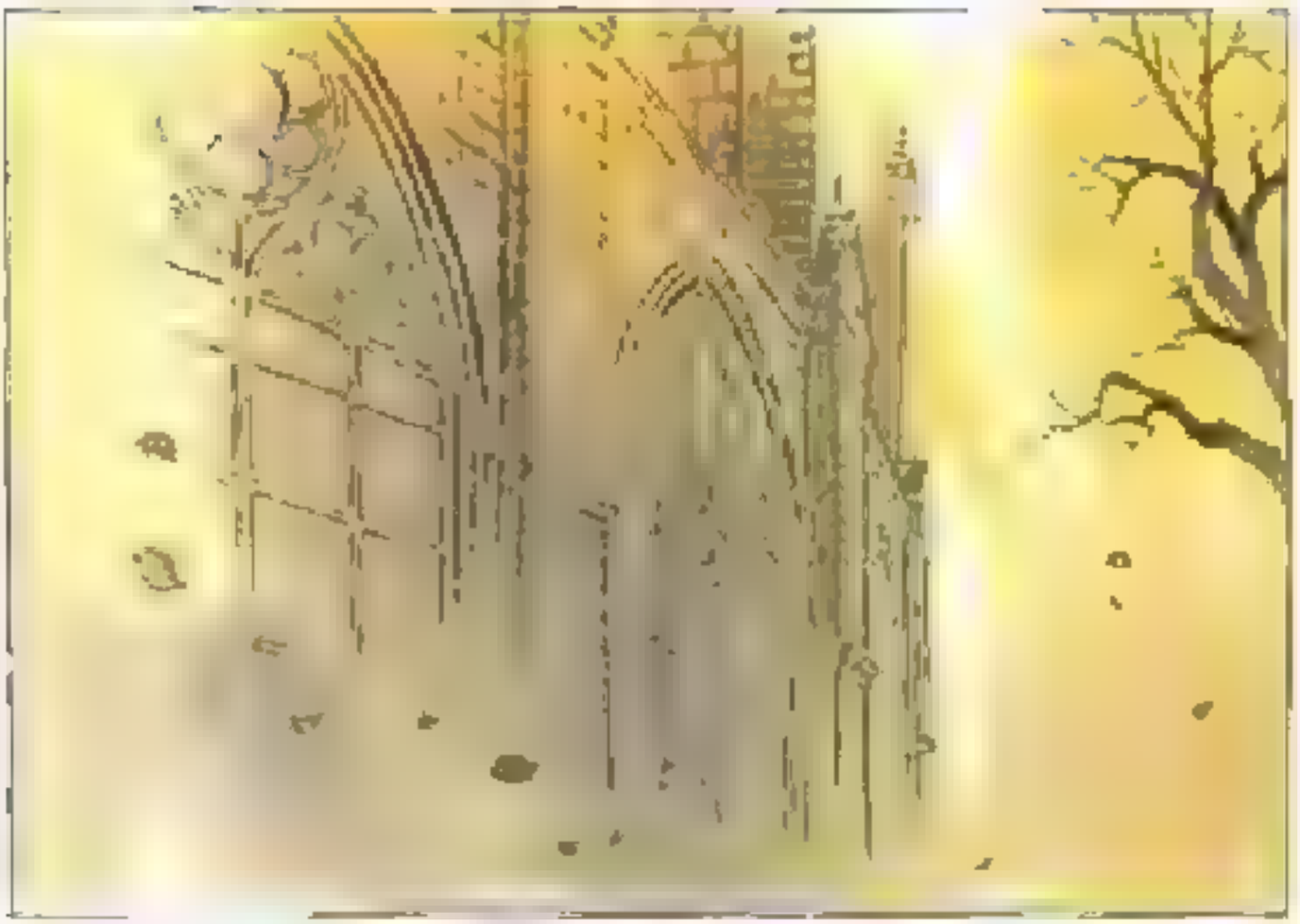
HEY
LOOK

THE DUKE OF ALEN-CON.
MON BEAU DUC !
HE'S GOING TO SUP-PORT JOAN.
G O O D
I'M SUR-PRISED HE WASN'T KILLED IN THE REVOLT.
HE RESIS-TED THE KING MORE THAN ANY-ONE.
HEY YOU !
YOU SURE HAVE PUT ON YEARS SINCE THEN!
YOU LOOK PRETTY GOOD IN A FEMALE OUTFIT.
EMILY DE LORRAINE NICKNAMED "THE ETERNAL MAID OF LORRAINE!"

MY
IS THAT ANY WAY TO SAY HELLO?
YOU'VE CHANGED, TOO.
THE MUSTACHE LOOKS GOOD.
HE HE
YEP
EVERYONE LIKES IT
YOU DON'T WEAR ARMOR ANYMORE?
TOO BAD!
?
YOU CAN DARE SAY YOU WERE NOT?
PLEASE
I'M GOING TO BURN ... AGAIN ...
HEY
WAIT!
DID YOU THINK
I WAS REALLY GOING TO KILL YOU?
I NEVER DISLIKED YOU.
NOT AT ALL.
WHY KILL YOU?

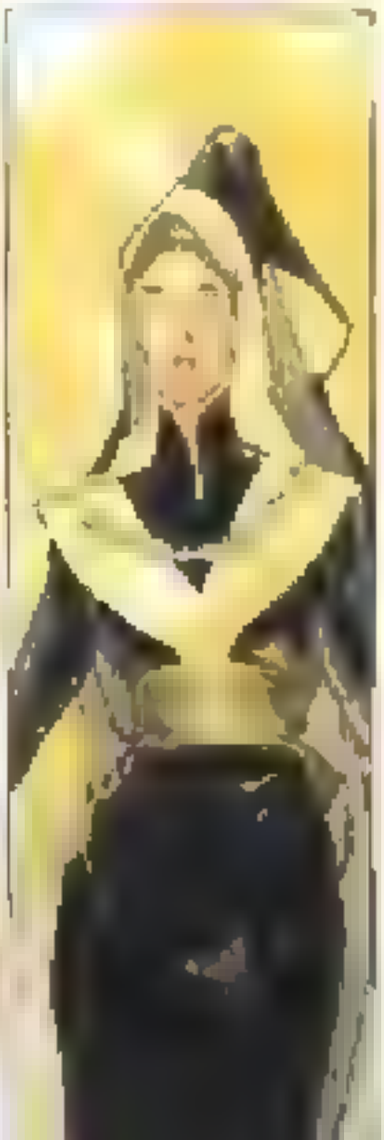
WHY DON'T WE BE LOVERS ?
I'LL TREAT YOU WELL.
EH ?
UH ...
ER ...
NO ?
DAUPHIN, I STILL HEAR THE BAD RUMORS ABOUT YOU.
YOU ALWAYS ARGUE WITH HIS MAJESTY AND YOUR PRIVATE LIFE IS A MESS.
IT'S HIS FAULT HE'S LIVED SO LONG.
NO FUN !
WE WON THE WAR* ...
BUT MY FATHER TOOK ALL THE GOOD PARTS. BY THE TIME I TAKE THE THRONE
I'LL BE AN OLD FOGEY.
THE KING HAS DONE A GOOD THING.
HE ORDERED A REVISION OF JOAN'S TRIAL RIGHT AFTER HE OCCUPIED ROUEN.
FEH
ONLY BE-CAUSE AGNES MADE HIM DO IT!

AGNES
I HEARD SHE PASSED AWAY...
YEAH, IN CHILD-BIRTH.
SHE WAS TOO GOOD FOR HIM!
AND
MARG-ARET, TOO?
SHE WAS SICK IN THE HEAD.
NO ONE COULD HELP HER.
POOR GIRL...
DON'T PITY HER! SHE HAD A LOVER ON THE SIDE!
THEY WROTE DUMB POEMS TO EACH OTHER !!
SELF-ISH TO THE END ...?
WHAT?



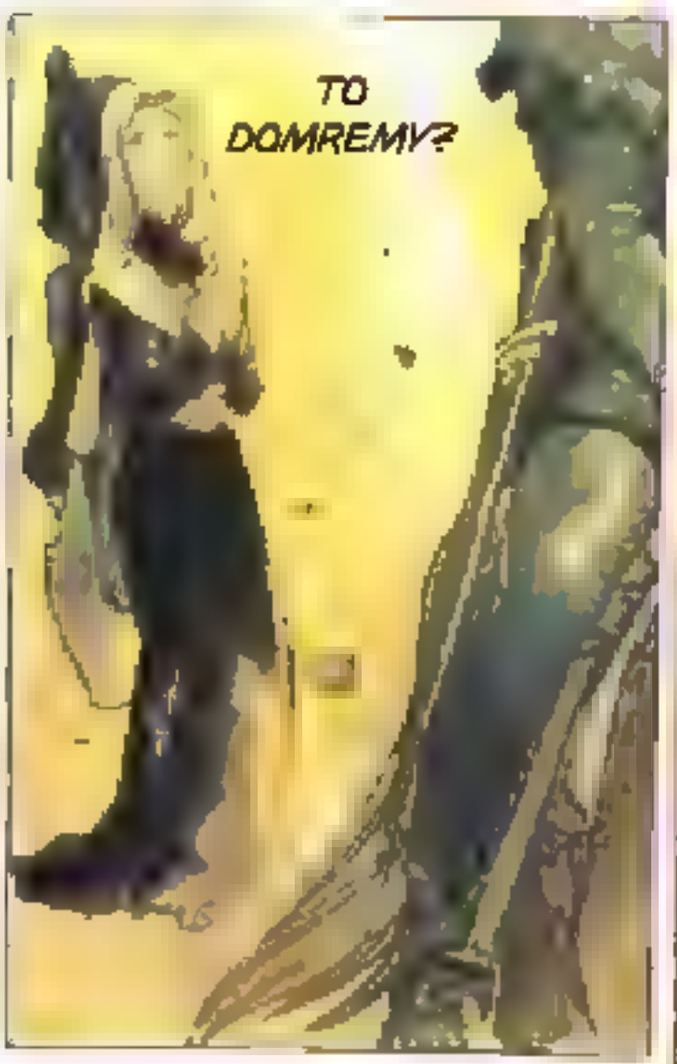
WHAT?
HELLO?
IS ANY-
ONE
THERE?

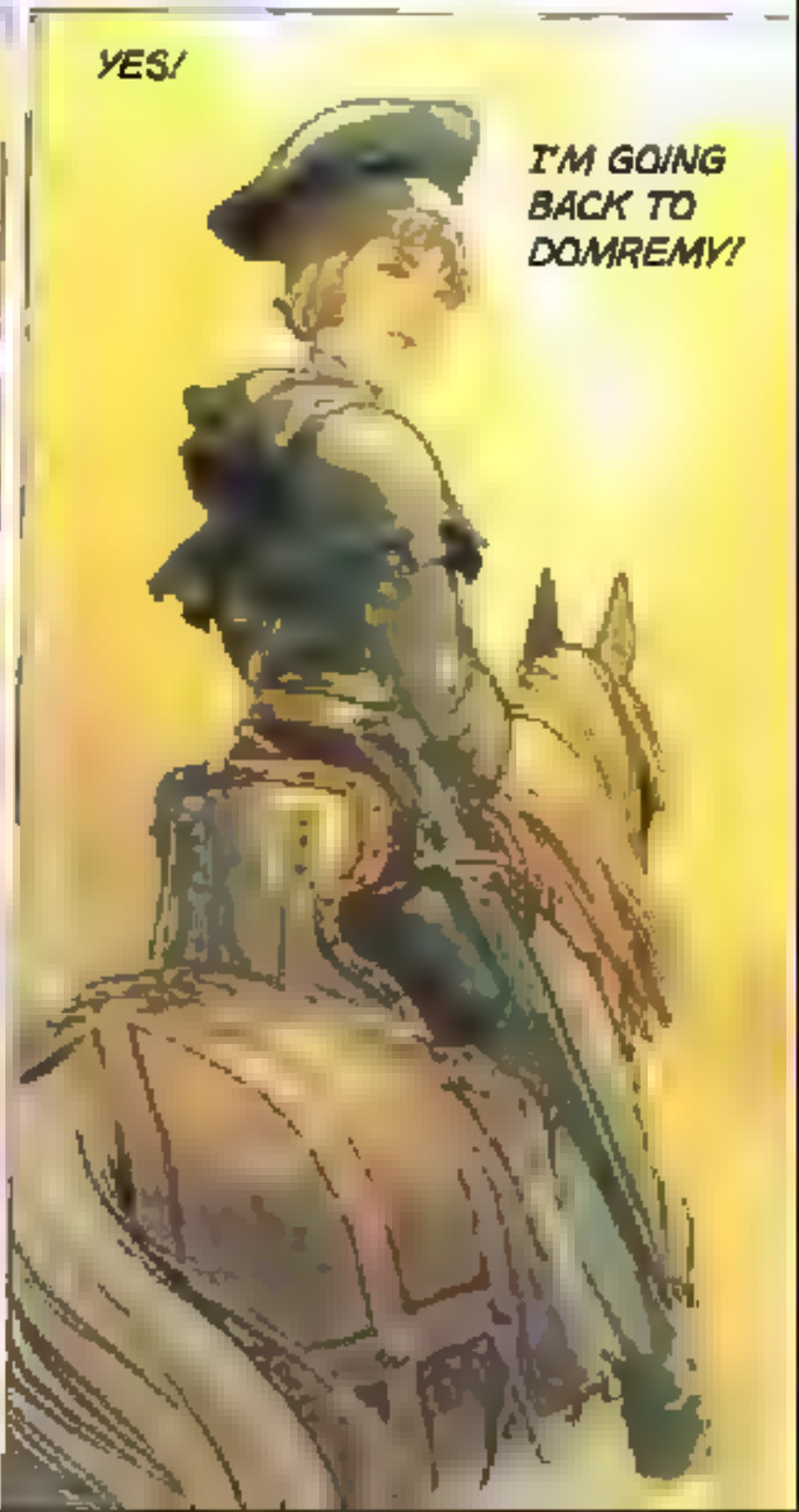
HEY!



THANK YOU, EMIL.
I CAN FINALLY GO HOME.
THANKS TO YOU.

HOME?
WHERE?


TO DOMREMY?


YES!
I'M GOING BACK TO DOMREMY!

DOMREMY...

THE TRIAL ENDED A SUMMER AFTER THAT,
AND JOAN WAS REDEEMED.

ISABELLE ROMEE, JOAN'S MOTHER, PASSED AWAY TWO YEARS AFTER THAT. AND IN 1920, MORE THAN 4 HUNDRED YEARS LATER ...

JOAN WAS DECLARED A SAINT.

IT WAS DURING THE WORLD WAR. SAINT JOAN OF ARC WAS A SYMBOL OF PATRIOTISM FOR FRANCE.

BUT

IS THAT WHAT JOAN WANTED?
DIDN'T JOAN FIGHT- FOR SOME- THING MORE?
NO ONE KNOWS THE TRUTH
JUST A
COMRA
OF JOAN
HAD NO
WAY
KN

Commentary by Chojun Otani, a scholar of French literature.

I was attracted to Joan of Arc, a girl of Orleans, and wrote a book. I am now in France tracing her footsteps.

Her life was short. She was a person of passion because she lived every single moment passionately and also a person who made history through her incomparable act of saving the country. Although some battle-fields have already disappeared, the old castles and the abandoned house that she was born in makes me think that Joan might come out suddenly from the shade.

My interest in Joan was increasing even after I published my work, but on the other hand, I also hope my work can publicize the great deeds and young energy of Joan.

I still remember clearly that I was strongly impressed with the comic book Rainbow Trotsky (Nijiiro no Trotsky) artwork by Mr. Yoshikazu Yasuhiko. How well comic books created by thin lines can describe folds of human lives! And there is a strong will behind the picture that never takes light of the history of human beings. The biggest charm of the comic of Mr. Yasuhiko is "Human beings in the history."

It was in the early spring of last summer when I finally met Mr. Yasuhiko after I gave my book, Saint. Joan of Arc to him. We forgot the time and talked about Joan for hours at our first meeting. Mr. Yasuhiko was trying to have a picture of Joan and asked me questions about the flag, swords, armor, and the clothing of that time. I took his particularness about details as a prologue, a process of him increasing his motive to pursue the theme.

Our premise was how we could get over the popular image of Joan. Both of us wanted to avoid the story of simply applauding a heroine that does not impress or excite readers.

We met twice after that. At first Mr. Yasuhiko talked about the meaning of the appearance of an incredible figure, Joan. He tried to make this heroine come out to the front in the actual present time from a piece of the history. Old structures and context such as the destruction of Berlin Wall and the collapse of Soviet Union are left destroyed in this present world. What is lost in this world is the wholeness. I realized that Joan is the one who recovered the wholeness of France with her whole energy.

Mr. Yasuhiko questions even more why an innocent village girl could lead an army, save France and achieve the huge project of guiding the unification of France. This has also been my interest. It is an attractive "mystery" how a girl stood up, held a flag, led an army, and defeated the English. There are tons of common interpretations of her as a "miraculous woman" or "inspired woman", but none of them is appropriate.

Emil, who appears in Joan I, II, III is an original character of Mr. Yasuhiko. Emil questions herself. She questions herself about her life as a boy, gets frightened by the vice around her, and shrinks from the violence of the enemy. Whenever she is down, the "apparition" of Joan appears. Ordinary people like us also get stuck in dead ends, get lost, and cry out. For Emil, Joan is a reflection of Emil herself. Joan was a rare existence to shed light on Emil herself and create another face of herself.

However, we should not forget that the real Joan was also stuck in a dead end. She was merely a girl even though she went to church and was very religious. Her peaceful life did not last long. The fierce English came in to the village of Domremy. Dreadful killing. Peaceful village life was immediately destroyed. Villagers, her parents, and even Joan herself might be killed tomorrow. A girl who would have done nothing but praying that it would not happen turned her eyes and noticed that there was another face of herself. This sincere confirmation of her at that time was in her faith in God and also in herself. Her unpredictable acts and commands were her surviving power and self-rehabilitation that was created by her being driven to the wall.

What was described by Joan I, II, III is nothing but inner dramas of us human beings. Humans will not or cannot fight even though neighbors are killed and the country lost. We live a weak existence. We realize our existence that excites and dramatizes our lives through the conflict of opposing elements such as; weakness and strength, discouraging self and encouraging self, the self that accepts the reality and the self that whispers that that is not the only way.

SPECIAL NOTES

PAGE 27 - MARIE D'ANJOU: RENE D'ANJOU'S YOUNGER SISTER.

PAGE 119 - DUKE OF BURGUNDY, PHILIP THE GOOD: SON OF JEAN THE FEARLESS, WHO WAS MURDERED ON THE MONTREAU BRIDGE.

PAGE 120 - PEACE OF ARRAS: PEACE TREATY SIGNED BETWEEN THE KING AND BURGUNDY IN 1435.

PAGE 215 - THE WAR: TWO YEARS BEFORE THIS SCENE, THE ENGLISH RETURNED TO THEIR HOME LAND AFTER THEIR DEFEAT AT THE BATTLE OF CASTILLON IN 1453.